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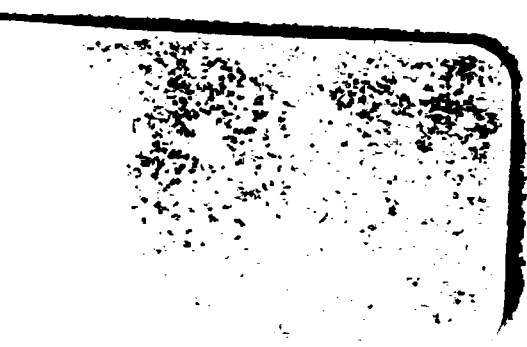
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Chester
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BY JOSEPH HEMINGWAY.

VOL. II.

1831
PUBLISHED
BY J. FLETCHER

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**PRINTED BY J. FLETCHER, OF WHOM THE WORK MAY BE HAD:
OF ALL BOOKSELLERS, AND OF THE AUTHOR, 44,
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1831.

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COMODO. ET
LATERANO
COS.
V. S. L. M.

HISTORY
OF THE
CITY OF CHESTER,

FROM ITS
FOUNDATION TO THE PRESENT TIME;

WITH AN
ACCOUNT OF ITS ANTIQUITIES, CURIOSITIES, LOCAL CUSTOMS,
AND PECULIAR IMMUNITIES;

AND
A Concise Political History.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

BY JOSEPH HEMINGWAY.

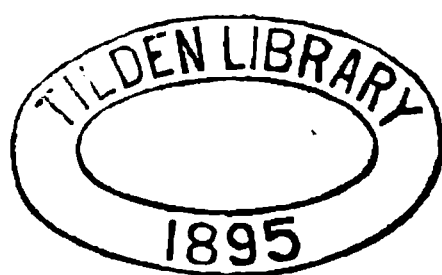
VOL. II.

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1831.



ANDY WOOD
JULY
1900

HISTORY OF CHESTER.

Perambulation of the City.

(CONTINUED.)

✓ **HOEVER** travels in the prosecution of a favourite object, whether it be a *Doctor Syntax* in search of the Picturesque; or a *Cooke*, for undiscovered islands or continents; or a *Pennant*, in pursuit of historical or antiquarian knowledge—or any other man, for some definite purpose—will seldom be found willingly to retrace the region he has already passed; unless either from recollection, or new information, he finds he has overlooked some object worthy his attention. Under the latter circumstances, he will be permitted to re-measure his steps; and the author trusts to a similar indulgence, in again reverting to a subject, which he had, intentionally,

at least, quitted.—The first volume of this work concluded by noticing the discovery of a number of hard-burnt earthenware pipes in the grounds of R. Baxter, Esq. near the main road leading to Boughton. A speculation is there offered, that these were laid by an abbot of Chester in the time of Edward I. for the conveyance of water from the *Abbot's Well* at Christleton to the cloisters, for the use of the monastery of St. Werburgh. To an objection, that the pipes were probably laid at a subsequent period, when water was brought from *Boughton* well to supply the city, my reply was, that the smallness of the bore, and the nature of the material were against this presumption. Since the concluding sheet of the first volume was put to press, I have arrived at something like *certainty*, that my postulatum was correct; and I can hardly think myself free from blame, that I should have overlooked the authorities of venerable *Webb* and the *Lysons* on this point. The former, under date of 1537, says, “Dr. Wall began the building of the conduits at *Boughton* for the bringing of the water to the Bridge-gate, IN PIPES OF LEAD.”* In the *Magna Britannia*, vol. ii. p. 614, the same fact is stated in nearly the same words.

Perhaps some of my readers may think that this subject has occupied more space than its importance deserves. As an historical fact, however, which has never received investigation, I deemed it worthy of particular attention.—I shall now proceed eastward from Mr. Baxter's mansion, by observing, that having passed this interesting spot, and proceeded a short distance, on the left is a lane leading by a footpath to Hoole, and very soon afterwards, on the same side is a delightful range of buildings, fronted by beautiful gardens, and iron pallisading. About the centre of this elegant group of buildings, thirty years ago, stood that *memento mori* to the passing traveller, vulgarly called the gallows, where many of our unfortunate fellow creatures have

* My own conjecture, therefore, that the material might be of wood, is erroneous; but the main fact assumed, is in my opinion, satisfactorily established.

forfeited their lives to the violated laws of their country. A short time prior to this period, this terrific engine of death had its station exactly on the opposite side of the road, which, on account of its elevated situation, received the appellation of *Gallows Hill*, which, by a precipitate descent, and without an inclosure, went down to the Dee. There is an incident connected with this place of execution worthy of recording. In May, 1801, as three malefactors, convicted of burglary at the spring assizes, were conveying to execution in a cart, one of them, named Clare, when opposite the gallows, and just when the vehicle was turning, gave a sudden spring, and threw himself upon the top of the precipice descending to the river, and jumped, rolled, and tumbled along till he was precipitated into it. The weight of his irons sunk him to the bottom, and before he could be brought up, life was entirely extinct. Although the unfortunate fellow thus evaded the letter of his sentence, in escaping being hanged by the neck till he was dead, yet the finisher of the law was unwilling to forego his official duty, and the dead body of the criminal was tied up after his breath had departed. The most afflictive part of the tragedy was, that the two poor men who were in a like condemnation, were kept in a state of awful suspense until the dead carcase of the drowned man was tied up beside them. It is a fact not generally known, that in the fourteenth century, the place for the execution of criminals was on Saltney, where the fatal tree stood, near to a piece of water, called the *Gallows-pool*, to which reference is made in describing the boundaries of the city, vol, i. p. 401. The last execution at Boughton was that I have just recited, in 1801; at the summer assizes in the same year, two men were hanged in front of the old Northgate, since which time, these tragical scenes have been performed at the new City Gaol, for several years at the east front, but more recently at the west.

Barrel-well, which is esteemed an excellent spring, and covered in, is very near to this spot; and close by it a new brick church is now building, which will be of

great service to the inhabitants of Boughton. Of this church, and the neighbouring foundation of St. Giles's hospital, more will be said in the parochial history. Suffice it to say, that on the left there is an excellent road, called Tarvin-lane, where some very pretty houses have lately been built, which leads to the Forest of Delamere, Tarporley, Northwich and Nantwich; and the continuous road, a little inclining to the right, conducts to Malpas, Whitchurch, Newport, and Birmingham. Within the last few years, several beautiful villas have been erected between Boughton and Christleton, some of which are occupied by Dr. Currie, Wm. Richards, Esq. Mr. Massey, Mrs. Humphreys, &c. &c. and which are considered a comfortable retreat from the cares of a busy and active life. When I see men, who are able to retire from the world in easy circumstances, and enjoy the decline of life in comparative affluence, I cannot but exclaim, with the inimitable Goldsmith—

“ How blest is he, who crowns, in scenes like these,
A youth of labour, with an age of ease.”

According to the plan laid down in my last chapter, I have directed the reader from the Cross to the extremity of the city eastward; and commencing again at the former, we shall proceed westward, and our survey in the first instance will lead us from thence down Watergate-street, at the top of which, and at the junction of the three other principal streets stands the ancient church of St. Peter, of which more anon.

WATERGATE-STREET is narrow, consists of a line of buildings on each side, and in length about 430 yards. In this street, the ancient form of the houses is preserved more generally, than in any other part of the city, though considerable alterations have been made here within the last few years. I am inclined to think, that little more than a century ago, this street was one of much bustle and great business, being the principal entrance from the wharfs and crane, from whence all our marine commodities were conveyed. The opening of the Ellesmere

Old Houses in Watergate Street.

Drawn by Tho. Bailey & F. J. Evans for Hemmings & Co. Ltd.

canal to the Mersey, communicating with the great port of Liverpool, and the great portion of business transferred to the canal warehouses there, and to the wharfs near Queen-street and Frodsham-street bridge, with the forming of new roads, have diverted most of the intercourse from this part of the city. This street is remarkable, however, for the excellent vaulted cellarings it contains, under the rows, and some of them to considerable distance under the houses. Several of these are used as bonded warehouses by our principal wine and spirit merchants.

The south side of the street contains also some very ancient houses, perhaps the oldest in the city, one of which has a post, on which is carved the date of 1539; two or three of these are highly ornamented in front by curious old fashioned devices. The first we come to is dated 1652, and has this motto, "God's providence is mine inheritance," said to have been inscribed by the occupier, as a grateful memorial, after escaping the plague, which had visited almost every other dwelling. Lower down, on the same side, is another very singularly decorated mansion; the lower part of the house is divided into several compartments, each having a sunk pannel, representing in rudely carved work, some of the most noted events recorded in the scriptures, such as the serpent beguiling Eve, the murder of Abel, Susannah and the Elders, &c. &c. In the two centre pannels are arms and initials, supposed of Dr. George Lloyd, Bishop of Chester, who died in 1615, which date is on the pannel. The upper part of the house is also richly figured in the same pannelled style; nor was even the bottom neglected in the profusion of laborious handiwork, for even the pillars and brackets which support the rows, are carved in a ludicrous manner.

A little below the house we are now speaking of, there was formerly an inn, which about fifty years ago was esteemed the first in Chester; the coach-road leading from Commonhall-street; the hall and house fronted Watergate-street, and is now occupied as a school and dwellings. To this nearly adjoined, but a few paces

lower down, a large room, at which a fatal catastrophe occurred, by a tremendous explosion of gunpowder. I copy the account as given at the time in *Adams's Weekly Courant*, observing, that the time of the accident was on the anniversary of the gunpowder-plot, 1772: "A few minutes before nine o'clock in the evening, the inhabitants of the city were greatly alarmed by a loud unusual noise, attended with a shaking of the ground, which every one imagined to proceed from an earthquake. But the news soon spread, that a large number of people, assembled at a puppet-show, had been blown up by gunpowder, placed in a grocer's warehouse which was under the room. Amidst the universal consternation and confusion, occasioned by this dreadful calamity, it happened, most fortunately, that some gentlemen repaired to the melancholy scene a few minutes after the accident, who gave particular directions, that every person who shewed the least signs of life, should be immediately carried to the infirmary, where physicians and surgeons repaired, to be ready to administer every possible means of relief. A clean bed was provided for every patient before the unfortunate sufferer could be stripped, which, in general, was by cutting off the clothes, to prevent the agony of pulling those limbs, which were broken, burned, or bruised. In this tremendous scene of horror and confusion, that no possible means of relief might be omitted, which their humanity and skill could suggest, the faculty assigned different offices to different persons; some were employed entirely in bleeding all who required such an evacuation; others washed several times over all the burns and bruises with Goulard's cooling water; the rest were engaged in setting fractured bones, reducing dislocations, &c. In these, and other offices, the faculty were most assiduously engaged from nine o'clock (when the accident happened) till four in the morning. Not one that was admitted escaped without marks of violent contusions, or large and deep burns on the face, hands, &c. and generally both. The women were much more severely burnt than the men, especially on their arms and thighs; this may be

accounted for from the different mode in their dress. It happened, that no person, man, woman, or child, but of inferior station, were sufferers in this dreadful calamity. But had they been persons of the most affluent fortunes, and carried to their own homes, none could have possibly received such immediate and effectual medical assistance as was administered to all, who were admitted into the infirmary. Besides 23 dead, and 53 hospital patients, there were about 30 more in the city, who received various degrees of injury ; in all, 106.”*

The following story, abridged from Cowper’s MSS.

* To this account the editor appends a few observations, which I here subjoin, as their tendency may be useful, as precautions.—“ To prevent a like misfortune, it may be useful to relate some facts, which may be learned from this melancholy accident. The inside dimensions of the building were 40 feet by 20 ; none of the stories were divided into separate apartments ; it was composed of a cellar 12 feet high ; a warehouse 7 feet high, on the ground floor, where about 800lbs. of gunpowder were lodged. The puppet-show room over it 11 feet high ; a dwelling over this room 7 feet, and a garret still higher. The walls of the warehouse and show-room were of stone, 3½ feet thick. It appears clearly that the chief force of the explosion had been exerted *upwards*, for it was sufficient to throw off all the floors, &c. of three stories above the warehouse ; yet the walls of the building continued standing on three sides, as high as the top of the room on which the powder was lodged. Even a part of the wood floor, at the opposite end of the room, on which the powder was placed remained standing. A house, which rested on one corner of the building tumbled down, but another old house, six yards distant from the warehouse, was only injured by one side falling *outwards*. Not a chimney was blown down, though the spot was surrounded by a great number of old houses. A great many windows were broken all round the place, even to a considerable distance ; but one circumstance deserves very particular attention : nearly all the glass fell *outwards*, with some of the window frames. This fact apparently proves, that these windows were not broken by the explosive power of the gunpowder, but by the pressure of the air contained in the surrounding apartments, which rushed into the vacuum caused by the explosion. However, where the force of the gunpowder was confined by narrow passages, its influence or centrifugal force took place, for two boys, walking along the row in Watergate-street, opposite to a passage leading to this building, were blown, one into the street, and the other against the rails ; and opposite another passage into Commonhall-lane, one side of a slated room was entirely blown off. Do not these facts evidently prove, that even the smallest quantity of gunpowder should be always kept in garrets ? And do they not suggest a doubt, whether the distance from towns prescribed by law, for keeping larger quantities, is not greater than necessary, if the magazine be entirely separate from other buildings ?”

appears not unworthy of being appended to another transaction which occurred in this part of the city. About the year 1695, a Mr. Joshua Horton came down from London, occupied a large house in Watergate-street, at the corner of Trinity-lane, (afterwards rebuilt by Alderman Henry Bennet*)]leased the mansion called *Cotton Hook*† for three lives, and supported a handsome appearance in the city for some years. One evening a great smoke penetrating to the house of his neighbour, Alderman Mainwaring, an alarm of fire was given, but the doors being kept closed, and a great bustle perceived therein, a curiosity was excited, which ended in a threat of forcing the doors. Entrance being then given, half demolished furnaces and embers were found scattered over the cellars, and a large pair of bellows, the blast of which had forced the heat and smoke through two walls of stone and brick into the house adjacent. The coadjutors of Horton had escaped, but a press for coining was found in a cistern in a yard, and a bag of dies were found in the Dee next day, which had been thrown in at high water. Mr. Horton under these circumstance, was committed to the North-gate; and on Monday, April 8, 1700, Joseph Jekyll, Esq. chief justice, came to the town-hall, and read a commission for trying him within the city, after which he was convicted of knowingly having in his custody a press for coining, and received sentence accordingly. A reprieve, however, was granted, while some doubtful points were submitted to the judges, and in this interval Mr. Horton slipped through the gaoler's door, mounted a good horse, which was waiting in the Gorse Stacks, and got to London, where he lived and died in obscurity. On the 14th of September following, Mr. Jekyll came again to the town-hall to inquire into the escape, of which he acquitted the gaoler, but fined the city sheriffs in the sum of one hundred marks.

* It is an excellent brick building, faced with stone, now the property of Henry Hesketh, Esq. and occupied by his son Henry Hesketh, jun. Esq.

† About a mile beyond Christleton.

Trinity Church stands on the north side of Watergate-street, to which adjoins the custom-house, but these will be noticed hereafter. A little lower down, on the the opposite side, there is an ancient building, now occupied as cottages, but which, in its early days, was a mansion of notable repute. Its erection bears the date of 1591; its antiquity cannot be discovered from the street, the front being rebuilt with more modern brickwork. But on entering a narrow court a few paces below Nicholas-street, the sides of the venerable edifice rise full in view. This decayed mansion is a striking illustration of the mutability of all human affairs. I believe it was formerly the city residence of the Derby family, which is the more probable, on account of its contiguity to the Watergate, of which the Earl of Derby had the custody. This much, however, is certain, that it was in possession of the family, and descended to the Alderley branch; it is now the joint property of Mr. E. Hodgkinson and Mr. Boden, builders. About the middle of the last century, it was occupied by the father of Henry Hesketh, Esq. and I am credibly informed, that during the races, was a place of general resort for the carriages of gentlemen, who visited Chester during those festivities. The outside of the building is chiefly formed of upright beams and transverse pieces of wood, the intervals filled up with laths and mortar; eight antique figures rudely carved in wood decorate the upright beams. At the commencement of the last century, it was probably the only dwelling-house on either side, which stood between the east side of Nicholas and Linenhall-streets, and the Watergate; except the old mansion, occupied by Dr. Currie, which formerly belonged to the Brooke's, of Norton Priory.

Continuing down the street, we pass the elegant mansion of H. Potts, Esq. a handsome brick building erected by that gentleman a few years ago, on the site of an old-fashioned house, formerly the residence of Dr. Currie. The front of this edifice has a north-east aspect, and the grounds behind it, which are enclosed on three sides by a high wall, are spacious; while the view across

the Roodeye, and towards the Welsh hills is exquisitely delightful. On the other side the street, is a range of genteel modern houses, occupied by families of independence, or the more respectable of our tradesmen.

This will terminate our observations on Watergate-street in a direct line, nearly to the gate, of which a description has already been given, as well as of its predecessor.* I must, however, return again to the cross, for the purpose of briefly noticing the small streets which branch out of it.

Descending therefore again from the cross, a few paces bring us to an avenue on the north side, called Goss-street, and known by the same appellation in the survey of the time of Edward III. except that it then bore the more humble cognomen of *lane*. But a few years ago, there was no thoroughfare here, but a passage has been opened at the upper end, leading to some recent buildings called Hamilton-place, in which are two small places of worship, one devoted to the service of a branch of the Baptists, and the other to that of the Wesleyan Welsh Methodists. From hence also is a convenient foot communication with the fish-shambles on the one hand, and on the other, with the western parts of the city.

Lower down the street, also on the north, is Crook-street, anciently called *Gerrard's-lane*, which, says the old survey, *butteth* upon *Parson's-lane* (now Princess-street). In this street stands the oldest dissenting meeting-house in the city, originally built for the celebrated Matthew Henry, in which he officiated as minister for twenty-five years. Below this street, still on the north, is Trinity-street, on one side of the entrance to which stands Trinity church, and on the other the mansion of Henry Hesketh, jun. Esq. It is a narrow incommodious thoroughfare, in which, however, is situated the stamp-office, and a good chapel, occupied by the Methodist New Connexion. On the other side, and nearly opposite, is Weaver-street, formerly named *St. Alban-lane*, which passes by the end of Commonhall-street, and directs into

* See vol. i. p. 358.

White-friars. Linenhall-street, lies a little lower down on the north-side of the street, at the corner of which stands the custom-house for the port of Chester, which, though a comparatively mean building, is amply sufficient for the necessary business. An old description says, "out of this street in ancient time, went a lane to St. Chad's church, *now ruined and gone*, called *Chad's-lane*, (probably Martin's-in-the-fields) and from that church there did go a lane to the walls, which was called *Dog-lane*."

Nicholas-street stands immediately opposite the south end of Linenhall-street; wide and uniform on one side, containing some handsome modern brick buildings in the London style, with sunken kitchens, inclosed with a neat iron railing, built in 1781. From the south end of it, there is a fine spacious way leading up to the castle, intersected by the road leading from Grosvenor-street to the new bridge; on the right, Mrs. Harrison's mansion and grounds, neatly bounded by iron pallisading, formerly known as the Nuns'-gardens; and on the left, the new church of St. Bridget, occupying the site of a miserable range of huts, called Nun's-lane, taken down about fifteen years ago, to make way for those elegant improvements since carried into effect. There are two avenues on the west side of Nicholas-street, leading to the walls; the one, Smith's-walk, is of modern date, and seems to have been intended chiefly as a way to the large house at the bottom, belonging to Captain Wrench; within the last thirty years it was esteemed a private road, being entered from the street by a gate thrown across the path, over which was a large arch. The other avenue, though much less commodious, is certainly of high antiquity, being mentioned in the survey of Edward III.; it is now called Wall's-lane,* though it was formerly known by the name of *Arderne-lane*. On the other side of the way stands the church of St. Martin's, a neat brick building faced

* In the month of March, 1789, a mare belonging to Mr. Hodson taking fright, ran with great fury down this lane, harnessed to a truck, and breaking down the railing, leaped over the walls on the Roodee, without the least injury.

with stone, on each side of which there is a street leading to Bridge-street, namely, White-friars, so called from having formerly been the site of a religious house ; and Cuppin-street, in which are situated the works of the gas-company, and an extensive soap manufactory, carried on by Messrs. Hodson and Witter.

The last opening from Watergate-street, is an avenue to several genteel modern buildings on the north, called Stanley-place, in which many of our city gentry reside ; the situation is delightfully pleasant and airy, the one end opening to the walls, the other flanked by the boundary wall, of the new Irish linen-hall. The latter is an extensive brick building, of a quadrangular form, inclosing a spacious area. The Irish linens were formerly exposed to sale in a building on the east side of North-gate-street, near the cathedral, and which is still known by the name of the old linen-hall. The present hall was built for the purpose by some of the principal of the linen-merchants, in 1778 ; it contains thirty-six double, and twenty-four single shops.

For many years the Irish linen-merchants have ceased to import their linens direct for Chester ; that trade has taken an entirely new direction ; and in consequence, very few of these shops are let at our Midsummer or Michaelmas fairs. It is understood that the proprietors are desirous of disposing of the whole concern.

Passing under the Water-gate, there are four long ranges of houses, two of them forming Middle Crane-street, and one on either side, that on the south called Paradise-row. The latter exactly faces the Roodeye, of which it commands an entire view, and these are some of the most pleasant residences in or without the city. Lower down are warehouses and offices connected with the wharfs, up to which laden vessels of upwards of 300 tons occasionally come at high spring tides. On the west side of the Roodeye stands the house of industry,* adjoining to which are the extensive paper manufactory and iron

* See Public Buildings.

foundry, carried on by Alderman George Harrison, and the ship-yard of Mr. Mulvey, in which vessels as high as 500 tons have been built. The Chester-built vessels have always been esteemed of the very first order.

NORTHGATE-STREET.—The entrance into this street is still narrow and inconvenient, but was much more so before the removal of the old Pentice, and the taking down the shops beneath in 1803. The houses on the eastern side are constantly acquiring a more modern aspect, by the taking down of the old, to make way for new buildings. St. Peter's church bounds the western side, adjoining to which stand the commercial buildings, a handsome stone edifice; the ground floor in the front occupied as two handsome shops, and the premises behind, by the city library, and a subscription news-room. From hence commences Shoemaker's-row, from what circumstance so called I cannot learn, but probably owing to the Crispin brotherhood having formerly made it their market-place, or residence. The inequality of the surface, which, as before observed, forms the rows, tapers off here, till it presents a level at the fish-shambles, and from thence, these conveniences are entirely discontinued.

Opposite to this row is the theatre royal, which, standing within the line of the other buildings, is not observable as a public edifice. The citizens of Chester appear to have been early distinguished for a love of theatricals, a taste probably acquired by the exhibition of the *Whitsun plays*, as already noticed. It appears likewise that the city was early visited by companies of travelling comedians; for in 1616, the mayor issued an order, "that no players be allowed to act in the common-hall (the present theatre); and further, that for avoiding several inconveniences, they shall not act in any place within the liberties of the city, *after six in the evening.*" The Chester theatre was erected by a company of proprietors in 1773, on the site of St. Nicholas chapel, and opened the same year under the management of Messrs. Austin and Heaton. In 1777, the mayor thought fit to issue an edict against the further continuance of dramatic

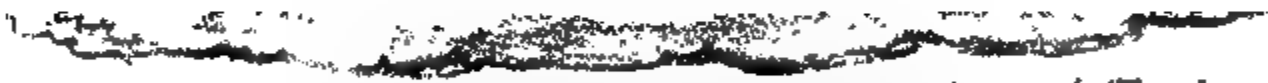
performances, probably thinking them more demoralizing than the annual *bull-bait*, exhibited in presence and under the sanction of his worship and his "ancient and discreet brethren." In this emergency the proprietors appealed to the crown, and obtained a patent, dated 16th of May, 1777, in the name of J. Townshend, Esq. constituting their theatre a theatre-royal. The theatre as originally fitted up, was calculated to contain about 100l. ; but Mr. Lewis, the lessee of the Liverpool theatre, took a lease of it in the spring of 1828, and by raising the ceiling, obtained room for an additional tier of boxes, by which, and other enlargements, the house is now capable of containing 170l. and is altogether one of the most elegant and commodious of any out of the metropolis.

From the end of Shoemaker's-row to the Exchange, distant about fifty paces, is an open area, the left being occupied by a newly-built fish-market, the centre by the vendors of vegetables ; and still further to the left, is the bank of Messrs. Dixon and Wardell, and the White Lion Hotel, where a respectable coaching establishment is, and has for many years been carried on. The street here is very wide, and nearly in the centre, stands the Exchange, a noble brick building, ornamented with stone work, through which there is an excellent thoroughfare, the western side being at present, though not in its early days, occupied by shops, and the eastern resting on round pillars of stone.*

Crossing a narrow avenue from the north end of the Exchange, and we enter through an iron-grated door the market-house appropriated for the sale of butter, on the market-days, in which also is a similar door in the centre of each side.† Six or eight yards apart from this,

* Within these pillars, the hustings for carrying on contested city elections, are always erected, where many a broad and sometimes uncourteous joke has been played off, by our city wits of the lower grade, during those scenes of ardent conflict, when every tinker and cobbler thinks himself of as high consequence and importance as any lord of a manor.

† Upon the site of this building stood a small square erection, supported by pillars, the roof of which, lined with lead, was used as a reservoir for



Drawn by T Bailey & Engr'd by J Evans for Hemingways Chester

The British Lion

and

FRENCH EAGLE.

Emblematical of the Victory of Waterloo; executed at the Manufactory of Messrs Coade and Sealy, Lambeth, for Palmers' Exhibition in Pall Mall, and now placed in the Court Yard of Will^m H: Polliott, Esq^r Chester.

The weight of these figures is 24 Cwt. exclusive of the pedestal.

in a direct line is another building of equal breadth, but longer, for butcher's meat, both of which are neatly fitted up for their respective purposes, and are well ventilated by a number of half circular openings at the upper sides of the walls; these are built of brick pointed with stone, roofed in, and lighted from the top. The market for poultry is on the east side of the street, opposite the Exchange, occupying the site of the old Engine-house.* Its back is formed by the outward wall of the Bishop's Palace, from whence a slated penthouse descends in an oblique direction nearly as far as the walking path in the street, for the purpose of shelter, and along the front is a neat iron pallisading. The width of the area within is about six yards, and in length it reaches from the end of Werburgh-street to the Abbey-gate. The potatoe-market, which was formerly held on the east side of the Exchange, where numbers of carts crowded that narrow part of the street, has been removed to the west side of the upper part of Northgate-street, where a sufficiently capacious opening has been made by the pulling down of some old houses belonging to the Corporation.

Before these improvements were made, the state of the markets was highly discreditable to the city of Chester. The flesh-market consisted of a collection of covered wooden stalls, crowded together on the north of the Exchange, and generally kept in a very filthy condition; and a similar nuisance on the south, served for a fish-market; whilst vegetables and fruits were scattered promiscuously in various quarters. The dealers in poultry and butter displayed their commodities, sometimes in

water, brought from the Dee-mills, which had continued there from the year 1671; but which on the improvements of the markets, was removed to the upper end of Northgate-street.

* The engine-house was erected about the year 1680, by the Duke of Ormond, when Lord Lieutenant of Ireland; but the reason of this mark of respect to the city, remains unexplained. It was a neat building of brick, with stone facings, ornamented with fluted Corinthian pilasters. An iron-railing was placed round it in 1812, and the brick work coated with Roman cement.

Eastgate, and sometimes in Bridge-street, without any accommodations, or shelter from the inclemency of the weather. For several years complaints against this inconvenience had been general, both among buyers and sellers; the latter suffered in an extreme degree, as they were destined not unfrequently to stand for six or eight hours up to the ankles in mud, and sustain besides, the "peltings of the pitiless storm," before they could dispose of their wares. I cannot here help expressing my conviction, that the improvements were materially accelerated by the labour and energy of the public press, which was constantly on the alert, in urging the necessity and advantage of better accommodations. But, the credit, the entire credit of the new markets, is immediately to be ascribed to the discernment and firmness of the late Ald. H. Bowers, who during his second mayoralty of 1827-8, succeeded in originating plans for, and nearly seeing executed, during the term of his office, the erection of the market-halls. As might be expected, great opposition was made by owners of property, where the markets had been partially held before; but if we are to wait for improvements until all interests give their consent, the idea of advancement must be abandoned for ever. Mr. Royle was the contractor, and builder of the markets.

Over against the market-halls, on the east side of the street, stands the Abbey-gate, consisting of a lofty pointed arch, with a postern at the side, both of which are included in a larger obtuse one. The interior of the gateway is vaulted with stone, with ribs, and carved key-stones, at the intersections, and the rooms over, now used as the registry, were originally approached by a spiral stair-case.* On the south side was the porter's lodge,

* An incident connected with these rooms, which occurred about fifty years ago, is still remembered and often spoken of by many of our ancient gossips. A Mr. Speed, the then deputy-registrar, had been frail enough to entice a female as frail as himself, into a room adjoining his office; when an unexpected visitant arriving, who required his immediate presence, for fear of an unlucky discovery, he locked her up in the room. The fair one became so alarmed, that she opened one of the windows looking into Abbey-square, from which she threw herself to the ground, but without any serious injury.

ABBEY GATE, from the Square, 1820
Drawn by T. Bailey & Pr^d by J. Evans for Hemingway's Chester,

and on the other, St. Thomas's Court, to which the tenants of several abbey manors still render suit and service. Before this gate were anciently ranged the booths for the merchants frequenting the abbot's fair, covered with reeds, which the monks were empowered by an especial charter to gather from Stanlaw Marsh; and here also the performers in the Chester mysteries commenced the exhibition of their pageants.

On passing through the arched gate-way, we enter into Abbey-square. On the right hand is a dead wall, inclosing the episcopal palace, a good stone building, but as destitute of magnificence, as it is of elegance. This edifice was wholly rebuilt by Bishop Keene, out of his private property, at an expence of 2200*l.* soon after his promotion to the see in 1752. The east side of the square contains only two good houses, one at each extremity, the interval being occupied by smaller dwellings. The north and west sides are filled up with elegant buildings, occupied by some of our first quality. The two end houses adjoining the gate stand on the site of an old edifice, called the prison-house.* On pulling down the latter, about five years ago, a narrow cell was discovered on the first floor, from which all light was excluded, in which, it is said, that martyr to popish cruelty, George Marsh, was immured, previous to his execution at Boughton.

In the middle of the square, there is a beautiful shrubbery of a circular form, inclosed with iron pallisading, having in the centre an elliptic column. This column, consisting of one stone, formerly occupied a station as a support to the Exchange; and I give its history in the words of the late Alderman P. Broster, as they appear in some MS. collections of that gentleman: "In 1756, it was discovered, that all the west side of the Exchange had given way, and was likely to fall. Mr. Turner, an architect, was sent for from Whitchurch, to

The whole story, however, got wind, and the subject of the incident was subsequently celebrated in a humorous caricature.

* See the accompanying view of Abbey-square.

survey it. In consequence, the row of large stone pillars was removed from the centre more towards the east side, and a row of shops built along the west side. In removing these pillars, one, which stood at the corner of Mr. Broster's shop (now Mr. Pover's) was broken off at the top, and the corporation made a present of it to the dean and chapter, to make an obelisk, to be erected in the centre of the Abbey-square, where it now stands."

While the conventual buildings were yet standing, the principal entrance was from the Northgate-street, under the great Abbey-gate, which led into a space nearly co-extensive with the present Abbey-square, surrounded on three sides with offices of the convent, and on the fourth by the abbot's house, standing on the site of the present episcopal palace. In the north east angle of this square was St. Thomas's chapel (a sketch of which is subjoined) where the dean's house now stands; and in the north west angle, another entrance from the city by the Little Abbey-gate, still existing. Out of the square, there is a good avenue leading to the walls, Kale-yards, &c. called Abbey-street, from whence, on the right, there is a road into the cathedral, through the cloisters, and on the left, a range of excellent houses. All this section of the city is dean and chapter property; and being extra-parochial, is not subject to local taxation, as poor-rates, &c.

In approaching the North-gate, and just when we reach the Little Abbey-gate, already noticed, the street again narrows; and passing Abbey-green on the right, and the Pied Bull,* a respectable inn for travellers, on the left, an open space, used as a potatoe-market, opens to view. At the extremity of this area, a good brick building has been erected by the corporation, the upper part converted into a reservoir, which is, or ought to be, constantly filled with water, to supply that necessary element in case of fire. The apartments beneath are occupied as depo-

* On the 13th of January, 1789, a fire happened at the stables belonging to this inn, which was attended with the loss of life. The hostler having gone into the hay-loft, with a lighted candle, while in a state of intoxication, set fire to the combustible, and was burnt to death.

*S^t Thomas's Chapel, or Old Deanery, in Abbey-Square, taken down 1788.
Drawn by T. Bailey, from a Sketch by M^r. Bailey, & P^d by J. Evans for Kemmings's Chess-Board.*

sitories for the fire engines, and other suitable apparatus. The arrangements for this important portion of police regulations are now under the superintendence of a committee, who have adopted some admirable measures promptly to meet and counteract the alarming occurrence of accidental fire.

Immediately adjoining this market are the dwelling-house and extensive brewery of Mr. G. Eaton. These premises in the early part of the last century, were occupied as an inn, which was esteemed one of the principal in the city; it bore the name of *The Falcon*, and was for many years held by a family of the name of Kenna. There is an incident or two connected with this house worth relating, the truth of which I think may be relied on, as they rest on an authority already quoted, namely, the MS. remains of the late Alderman Broster. In the year 1711, in the mayoralty of John Minshull, bookseller, the lord lieutenant of Ireland, in his journey to Parkgate, stopped at Kenna's, till the wind served for him to proceed on his journey. On the morning, when he and his suite were setting off, one of the waiters ran after a servant of his Excellency, to demand payment for some articles which he had omitted to discharge. The servant refused to pay, and the waiter, holding his horse's bridle, insisted on being paid before he would quit his hold; upon which the servant drew a pistol from his holsters, and shot the waiter dead upon the spot. Upon the man being imprisoned, the lord lieutenant directed that if he should be convicted, an express should immediately be sent to him, that he might apply to the king for his pardon. The prisoner was tried and found guilty; and the mayor being informed of the directions of the lord lieutenant, replied, "I will take care to save his majesty and the lord lieutenant any further trouble in this matter;" and ordered the man to be executed the next day after his conviction.

The other recital is not less curious than the above. Mr. Samuel Jarvis was a ribbon weaver, kept a small shop under Shoemaker's-row, opposite the theatre, and

lived in a little house adjoining the Falcon inn. It was observed, however, that this individual suddenly emerged from poverty and obscurity to respectability and affluence, without the appearance of any intermediate change of circumstances. It is said, that an opulent banking-house in London had been robbed of a large sum of money by one of the clerks, who absconding with the property, came down to Chester, and took up his domicile at the Falcon. He was pursued, and at a late hour one night, whilst he was in bed, he heard his pursuers below stairs; upon which he rose up, threw his bags, containing his treasure, through the chamber window which looked into a small area belonging to Mr. Jarvis's house, and went to bed again. He was secured and conveyed to London, but none of the property having been found upon him, he escaped conviction; but subsequently for another offence he was found guilty and executed. It is added, that Mr. Jarvis found the bags in the morning in the area, a circumstance corroborated by the fact, that he immediately after commenced a silk mercer in a very extensive line. He also purchased a large estate at Mollington, near Chester, where he built a handsome house, lately occupied by Mr. Roberts. He dying without issue, his property came to a person of the name of Dob, a gardener at Greg's Pit, near the Bowling-green, whose descendants in the second generation had squandered the property, and left no male issue. Mr. Jarvis served the office of mayor of Chester in 1742-3; and at the time of his death, was pricked down for high sheriff of the county the ensuing year. He was buried near the christening font in St. Oswald's church.

The streets and avenues which diverge from North-gate-street within the walls, are, on the west, Princess-street, leading towards the Infirmary; King-street (formerly called *Barn-lane*), at the extremity of which is an elegant range of houses, called King's-buildings, opening to another line of neat clean dwellings, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields; and close to the North-gate, a narrow way,

under and parallel with the walls, as far as the Water-tower, which was anciently denominated *Bagg-lane*. There are no other thoroughfares on the east side, than those already mentioned, Werburgh-street, Abbey-court, and the Little Abbey-gate. A view and description has already been given of the present North-gate (vol. i. page 349), and the following is a pretty correct representation of the old gate before it was taken down :—

Immediately after passing under this gate, we cross an arch thrown over the Ellesmere canal, which, however, is not discernable from the street, and an entire level is preserved. Each side of the arch or bridge, is well guarded by an iron railing, from the tremendous precipice below. On the left hand, close to this spot, stands the ancient hospital of St. John, better known as the blue-coat school, the south wing of which is occupied as a chapel for divine worship, according to the forms of the church of England; it is extra-parochial, is denomi-

nated Little St. John's, and is in the patronage of the corporation. The centre is occupied by the schools, and the remaining wing is used for the house of the master and other purposes. Behind this building are several alms-houses for aged females; but as I must necessarily recur to this subject again, I shall pass on.

Close adjoining to this building on the north side, is a road leading to the canal wharf, from whence a packet sails daily for Liverpool, which has lately received the name of Canal-street; out of which diverges another path, leading to Stone-bridge, Saughall, &c. Exactly opposite the top of Canal-street is George-street, leading to New-town and Flookersbrook, having on the left a lane, denominated Windmill-lane, so called from a mill situated at its extremity near the Bache, where the monks of St. Werburgh, and afterwards the tenants of the dean and chapter had the *privilege* of grinding their corn. Nearly at the top of the south side of this street is the diocesan school, 80 feet long by 33 wide; it was built by public subscription in 1813, and is under the patronage of the bishop of the diocese.

There is no particular object in Further Northgate-street, that claims any particular notice, either from the historian or antiquarian. It contains a few good houses, but they are thinly scattered amongst many inferior ones; the street, however, is wide and capacious, and forms, if not an elegant, at least a commodious entry to this part of the city. At the further end, there are two roads verging from the centre, the one on the left hand leading to Mollington and Parkgate; the other, on the right, conducting to Eastham, and the Liverpool ferries on the Mersey. On the ground in front, which divides these roads, is an excellent brick building, which appears to great advantage, built by, and the residence of J. Fletcher, Esq. The top of this mansion is surmounted with a glass cupola, forming an excellent observatory, and admirably situated, on account of its great elevation, particularly on the western point, for such a purpose. On this spot formerly stood the church of St. Thomas, or Thomas a

Becket, which is distinctly marked on the plan of Chester, published by Daniel King, and probably taken about 1620. A contemporary says, it was converted into a dwelling-house by Alderman Richard Dutton, who served the office of mayor of the city in 1627, and was afterwards called *Jolly's Hall*. In 1645, it shared the fate of most other buildings in the suburbs, and was demolished, that it might not afford shelter to the enemy, during the siege. I have been informed, that in turning up the ground in Mr. Fletcher's garden, at the time of building his house, numerous reliques were found, indicative of the site having been a place of ancient sepulture.

A little beyond Mr. Fletcher's house, on the Bache road, there is an excellent stone mansion built about a dozen years ago by the late Mascie Taylor, Esq. ; and since occupied by the late Rev. Mr. Molineux ; and on the opposite side of the road, another has been erected by Mr. John Lewis, comptroller of the customs. These are both delightfully situated, and the grounds tastefully laid out. But I am reminded, that I have travelled as far in this direction as my proposed plan will allow, particularly as it is my purpose to take an excursive view, in a separate article, of the suburbs. I must, therefore, at present return to the Cross, in order to complete my itinerary of the city, by a survey of

BRIDGE-STREET.—This street is 550 yards long, and is generally wide and commodious ; it is divided into *Upper* and *Lower*, the division being marked by St. Michael's church and the road leading to the new bridge. The view from the Cross extends nearly to the bottom of the street, and the variety in the buildings, in which are intermingled the antique and the modern, of different sizes and forms, presents a grotesque appearance. On the east side, the modern buildings are more general, the shops in the street, for a considerable distance, being occupied by the town butchers ; the street shops on the western side are of a more respectable character, being principally occupied by ironmongers, grocers, tobacco-

nists, chandlers, and other retail dealers. The antiquity of the city is in no place more conspicuous than in this interesting street. Every gradation of architecture, from the rude clumsy wooden hut, to the open airy commodious hotel, is here displayed; and it is not perhaps the least worthy of observation, to see the awkward confinement of low close rooms, gradually yielding to the more healthful taste of modern building. The original plan of the houses (if there was any plan at all) seems to have been in the cottage style, with the gable end of each to face the street. This mode certainly gives great extent of premises behind, but renders the inner rooms and staircases rather dark. The curious observer will discover in this street, that the square brick fronts of some of the houses, are nothing more than a wall carried up as high as the ridge of the roof; thus having the appearance of a handsome modern house, while the interior retains most of its original formation. In this part of the city a great deal of business is carried on, it being the only thoroughfare to and from the principality. It is to be regretted, that while the magistrates were fixing upon suitable places for markets for the sale of various commodities, they did not appoint some other mart than this street for that of coal. The long range of coal carts, sometimes extending in a line from below Pepper-street to the Feathers hotel, is a nuisance that ought to be abated; and besides, taking into account the conflux of people and the numbers of carriages frequently collected together, renders their station here not less dangerous than disagreeable.

The first turning from Bridge-street on the right hand, is Commonhall-street, which is thus described by old Webb:—"As you descend from the High Cross, upon the west side lyes a lane anciently called *Norman's-lane*, and many yet call it Commonhall-lane, because it was situate at a great hall, where the pleas of the city, and the courts whereof, and meetings of the mayor and his brethren were once holden, and it joins *St. Alban's-lane*," (Weaver's-lane). There seems to be some difficulty in fixing the exact spot where the common-hall stood; it

has been affirmed by some, that it occupied the site of a building used by Mr. Wilcoxon, as a dissenting meeting-house ; but by others, particularly Ormerod, with greater probability, that it stood on the *south* side of the street, near to several alms-houses which are still existing, and where previously stood a decayed chapel, dedicated to St. Ursula.* On the south side of this street also stood the monastery of the White Friars, or Carmelites, which exhibited a fine spire, built in 1496, and taken down in 1597 ; the antiquarian Webb pathetically laments the removal of this ornament, in the following language :—
 “It was a great pitie that the steeple was put away, being a great ornament to the citie. This curious spire steeple might still have stood for grace to the citie, had not private benefit, the devourer of antiquitie, pulled it down with the church, and erected a house for more commoditie, which since hath been of little use, so that the citie lost so goodly an ornament, that tymes hereafter may more talk of it, being the only sea-mark for direction over the bar of Chester.” Commonhall-street contains likewise a Welsh Calvinistic chapel, and an extensive shot manufactory, with a high circular tower, built by the late Mr. John Mellor, and now carried on by Mr. Ellis.

A little lower down Bridge-street, on the same side is a small filthy opening, denominated with great propriety *Dirty-lane*, which has no other communication but with an adjoining court, though in the time of the ancient survey, it had a passage to the commonhall, and was called *Perpoint-lane*. Immediately opposite this spot, is the Feathers Hotel, an inn of very superior character, and now kept by Mr. William Jones. With this house is connected an extensive coaching establishment, from whence conveyances may be had to every part of the kingdom, and the concern is sustained with commendable spirit, under the auspices of Messrs. Jones and Herbert. Close to this spot, are still preserved in a tolerably perfect state, the remains of

* The city courts were removed from this street to St. Nicholas-chapel, where the theatre now stands, in the year 1546.

a hypocaust, and of a sweating bath, formerly much in use among the Romans, as a superlative luxury, which will be more particularly noticed in our description of *Roman Antiquities*. A narrow and inconvenient passage lies a few paces below, called the Feathers-lane, at the top of which are the stabling and coach-houses of the inn. The continuity of the row is broken by this passage, on each side of which there is necessarily a steep flight of steps, to connect the upper with the lower part of the walk, which is both dangerous and unseemly. As this road belongs of right to the proprietor of the Feathers inn, it is too much to expect that it will be relinquished for the public convenience; but it is a subject of surprise, if not of censure, that the police commissioners have not long since entered into some arrangement with the owner, to block it up, particularly as the back part of the premises might be easily approached from Pepper-street. As the value of the property from this lane to Michael's church is materially deteriorated by this interruption of the row, it is not less wonderful that the owners conjointly have not seen it to be their interest to effect such a compromise.

About eighty paces below this lane, on the same side, stands St. Michael's church, through the arched porch of which the row is continued, and here terminates. On the opposite side of the street, stood the church of St. Bridget, and this quarter, from the contiguity of the two sacred edifices, received the appellation of *The Two Churches*. A gateway formerly crossed the street between St. Bridget's and St. Michael's churches, dividing the Higher from the Lower Bridge-street.

From the commencement of the extensive improvements and alterations in and about our castle and county-hall, a new bridge across the Dee, from the south-eastern angle of the Roodeye, with approaches to it suitable to the magnitude of the undertaking, was unquestionably contemplated by the late Mr. Harrison, whom the county had the good fortune to engage as its talented architect. To the accomplishment of these desiderata, however, numerous and formidable obstacles were opposed,

Stand exactly opposite S'Mount's Corner in Bridge St and will take down in 1887 to make
an opening for Gravelier St.

particularly as they involved various conflicting interests. It was contended, that the erection of a new bridge on the proposed site, and the diversion of the road in that direction, would essentially lessen the value of all the property in Lower Bridge-street, and in Handbridge; and further, that the old bridge and its approaches were capable of such improvements, as would render the project of but trifling advantage. The former branch of this argument was undoubtedly entitled to consideration, though probably the estimate of loss, as represented by the land-owners, was not a little exaggerated. As to the capabilities for improvement in the old structure, and the avenues leading to and from it, though admitted to a certain extent, there are physical causes beyond the power of removal, which render that line of road unsuceptible of convenience or commodiousness. The steepness of the hill on the Handbridge side of the river, with the suddenness and narrowness of its turn at the summit, and the great acclivity of the lower part of Bridge-street, will always necessarily render this road for carriages both difficult and dangerous. Nor, in estimating the comparative advantages of the two lines, should it be forgotten, that from the centre of the city, the new one, besides preserving a perfect level, will save several hundred yards in point of distance. With those who calculate only on the principle of *immediate* profit or loss, in pounds, shillings and pence, all arguments drawn from the improved *appearance* of the city, would pass for nothing; but men of taste, and those who look forward with enlarged minds to ultimate results, will see abundant reason for present admiration as well as future anticipation of advantage, from the completion of the plans now in progress. Before the commencement of these, our fine castle, county-hall, and the circumjacent buildings connected therewith, the finest specimens of architectural beauty in Europe, were almost entirely obscured from public observation; while the principal and almost only approach to them was by a narrow, uneven street or lane, nearly at one extremity of the city, where there is hardly

room for two carriages to stand abreast. By the formation of the new road, all these attractive objects are thrown open to full view, to which is superadded, the beautiful stone church of St. Bridget; and when the new bridge, unrivalled for the dimensions of its arch, is completed, and the line of road perfected to Overleigh, we shall have one of the richest promenades that can be imagined.

It is impossible to contemplate the consummation of these improvements, not less useful than ornamental, without being assured that our city will become a point of general attraction. The new bridge at Bangor has drawn thousands of people from every part of the kingdom to behold it as a curiosity; and the neighbourhood has been essentially benefitted by the amazing influx of strangers. If the bridge at Chester be not so striking an object of rarity, it will nevertheless command peculiar attention, as being unique in its kind, and not to be paralleled in this or any other country. We know too, that the beauties and embellishments of any place have no small influence in determining the domicile of individuals and families who have not previously a localized habitation. In whatever point of view the subject is considered, and taking into account the additional tolls, necessarily created by the expence, to me it appears certain, that the remuneration, even in a pecuniary sense, will more than compensate for the requisite sacrifice.

It has already been remarked, that although several intelligent and influential individuals incessantly urged the advantage of a new bridge, with suitable approaches, numbers of others were opposed to them. However, on the 18th September, 1818, a town's meeting was held in the Exchange, at which the two following, among other resolutions, were adopted:—"That the erection of another bridge, in addition to the present one, would be highly beneficial to the public at large—to the county and city of Chester in particular; and as a national undertaking most important to the intercourse between England,

Wales, and Ireland. That notice be immediately given, in order that application may be made to parliament, at the ensuing session, by Mr. Finchett, and that the business relating thereto be transacted by him, as solicitor to the undertaking," &c. These resolutions were rendered abortive by the violent opposition made to the measure, and the project was destined to slumber for nearly another seven years. In 1824, however, the plan was revived with increased energies, and in the month of June the following year, an act of parliament was passed to carry the improvements into effect. By this act, powers were taken by commissioners for the erection of the bridge, making the approaches, pulling down St. Bridget's church, and rebuilding it on another site, as well as for widening the old bridge. The three last objects have been accomplished at the time I write (July, 1830) and the first is in a considerable state of forwardness. The new line of road commences from the end of Pepper-street, taking in the site of the late St. Bridget's church, crossing in an oblique direction Cuppin and Bunce-streets, and passing farther on, the extreme ends of Nicholas and Castle-streets, where, on the left, stands the grand entrance gate to the esplanade and the castle. The road will then proceed in a direct line over, and on a level with the walking path of the walls to the bridge, and so on till it reaches Overlegh, where it joins the Denbighshire and Flintshire roads.

It is a subject of deep regret, that the commissioners did not obtain powers by the act of parliament, for purchasing a sufficient quantity of land on each side the new road to build a range of good houses from the entrance from Bridge-street to St. Bridget's church, and for compelling persons to build on a prescribed plan. There is probably no situation in or about the city possessing such imposing claims to elegant buildings; and yet, for want of the precaution just mentioned, the present appearance is unseemly and paltry. In one place is a dead wall, thirty or forty yards long, in another, broken fragments of mean houses, here an old barn or stable, and

there a patched up manufactory, besides having almost close to the line of road, the works of the gas company, and an extensive soapery. I believe the commissioners, as well as the public, see and regret that want of foresight which leaves this most interesting portion of the city in so miserable a condition; and I learn efforts are now making for a new application to parliament, for enlarged powers to accomplish that which ought to have been secured by the original measure of legislation. Some plans for an elegant street here have been circulated, but as there are many conflicting interests, I am quite satisfied, that unless another act of parliament be obtained, they will never be carried into execution. An account of the new bridge will be found under the head of "Public Buildings." To this skeleton of a street, the police commissioners have affixed the name of *Grosvenor-street*.

The first building in this road, and two good shops fronting Bridge-street, stand on the site of an old edifice, formerly well known in Chester, by the name of the *Lamb Row*. On the basement floor were two or three small shops; the first floor, in front of which was an open space of several yards, was ascended by a flight of stone steps outside, going from Cuppin-street, and the upper part of the building was supported by clumsy wooden pillars. The frame-work was of wood, and the interstices of hazel twigs, plastered over with clay and mortar. The exact period of the erection of this building is not known; it was probably about the middle of the 17th century, and it was most likely the residence of one of the Randal Holmes. Both these speculations are supported by the records of the corporation; in 1670, the assembly ordered, that "the nuisance erected by Randal Holme in his *new building* in Bridge-street (near to the two churches) be taken down, as it annoys his neighbours, and hinders their prospect from their houses." The following year, "Mr. Holme, painter, was fined 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* for contempt to the Mayor, in proceeding in his building in Bridge-street." It appears, however, that the building was not taken down:

it was subsequently converted into a tavern, bearing an outward and visible sign of *The Lamb*, from whence arose the name of the *Lamb Row*. The accompanying sketch of this old structure will convey a better idea of its dangerous and dilapidated state than any written description, by which it will be seen that the upper part overhung the base, and bent forward in an alarming position. In May, 1821, *Time*, the slow but certain conqueror of all human skill, with an invisible hand, touched the edifice, and the whole front of the upper apartments, with the fore part of the roof, fell suddenly into the street. Although this happened while several of the inmates were in the interior, and at the noon-time of day, when many persons were walking to and fro in the street, not the slightest injury was sustained by any one. The ruins and the ground on which they stood, were purchased by Edward Roberts, Esq. who built several good shops upon the site; but it will be a subject of lasting regret, that some amicable arrangements were not come to, for these buildings being thrown further back, so as to widen the street, which in this part is the narrowest and most inconvenient.

Cuppin's-street, so called, as tradition says, from licensed bagnios, or *cupping-houses*, being situated here, is immediately on the south side of the buildings just mentioned: it is cut in two by the intersection of the new street; is but narrow, with many indifferent houses, and terminates at Martin's Ash, near St. Martin's church. Pepper-street lies on the east side of Bridge-street, to which St. Michael's church adjoins, but is worthy of no further notice, than that it leads to the New-gate, New-gate-street, and the top of Park-street. The description of the remaining avenues from this street shall be given in the words of the antiquarian Webb, which is nearly applicable to the present time:—"Over against St. Olave's church lyeth Castle-lane, leading to the castle, out of the south side of which lyeth another lane that goeth to St. Mary's church. And on the east side of

Bridge-street, by St. Olave's church, lyeth St. Olave's-lane. Beneath which, on the same side, is Clayton or Claxton's-lane (now Duke-street), which butts upon the walls of the city. And on the other side, over against Clayton's-lane, lies a way out of the Bridge-street, that leads to St. Mary's church, and anciently also was the way to Shipgate, which was then a fair gate in the wall belonging to the ferry, at which, before the building of the bridge over the Dee, both horse and man had passage into the city."

Before I take leave of this street, it may be proper to notice one or two circumstances. Within these few years, an excellent hotel has been established here, called the Albion Hotel, on premises formerly held by the late Bagot Read, Esq. elegantly fitted up, to which more recently has been added a commodious assembly-room, and behind the premises is an extensive piece of ground, laid out as a bowling-green and a flower-garden. Immediately opposite, an excellent house, lately occupied by the Misses Hunt, and connected with the proprietary of the hotel, has been converted into a subscription news-room, to which billiard-rooms, and other conveniences for public purposes, are appended. Just below Castle-street, on the west side, is an ancient structure, to which there is an ascent by a high flight of steps, the court within being known by the name of the *Boarding-school-yard*. This house, which fronts the street, was formerly the residence of Sir Francis Gamul, who was a prominent character during the siege, and it was in this mansion, that the unfortunate Charles I. took up his residence during his short and disturbed stay in the city. The house and outbuildings behind are now divided into several dwellings of an inferior grade; and this property, with that of the Dee mills, passed by purchase from the representatives of the Gamul family, to the late E. Q. Wrench, Esq. whose descendant now possesses it. Even in its ruins, there are yet in the interior some remains of its former magnificence; particularly in one of the

principal rooms, where the chimney-piece is decorated in a superior manner, with the Gamul arms painted in the centre, probably the work of the first Randal Holme. It seldom happens that degradation follows magnificence, without some intermediate gradations; and this is true in reference to this once abode of royalty. Between the years 1760 and 1770, these premises were occupied by a Mr. Tench, who kept an academy for dancing, and a most respectable boarding-school, from which circumstance, the present name of the place is derived. Contemporary with Mr. Tench, as a dancing-master in Chester, was a Mr. Pickmore, who also obtained some celebrity as a teacher in this line. There is a curious coincidence worthy notice, involved in the immediate descendants of these gentlemen. The son of Mr. Tench entered the army as a lieutenant in the marines, in which capacity he was employed by government on a voyage to the then infant colony of New South Wales, of which, after his return in 1793, he published an excellent history; and, passing through the different gradations, was raised to the rank of general in the service, which he still sustains. Mr. Pickmore's son chose the navy for his scene of enterprise, and acquitted himself in such a satisfactory manner in his professional duties, as to obtain a gradual advancement to the rank of admiral, in which capacity he had lately a command on the Mediterranean station. Both these distinguished individuals are natives of Chester.

Opposite to Boarding-school-yard there is an antique structure, now used by Messrs. Newell and Gamman as an extensive brewery; the date of its erection is unknown, as well as the purpose to which it was formerly appropriated, but it may certainly be placed as early as the fifteenth century, and the row adjoining bears evident marks of remote architecture. In the interior are several entrances to vaulted passages, now blocked up, but what communication they ever had is uncertain.

A very popular opinion has long prevailed, that there anciently existed subterranean passages between the castle and various public buildings in the city, though

for what purpose, or why or when discontinued, is wholly unknown. This idea received the authority of the author of the *Polycronicon*, who says, “*In this cyte been ways under erthe, with vowtes and stone-werke wonderly wrought; three chambred werkes.*” In remarking upon this passage, Mr. Pennant observes, that of these not a trace, nor even the least memory is left, notwithstanding the most diligent search and inquiries have been made. None, says he, have ever been discovered, by the frequent sinking of cellars for new buildings on the site of the old; tradition has delivered no such accounts to us; nor is their exit to be traced beneath the walls in any part of their circumference. It should be recollected, however, that Mr. Pennant wrote upwards of fifty years ago, and that since his time, a greater number of reliques of antiquity has been discovered, than before his time. I am not prepared to speak decidedly on the question, but confess I am less sceptical on the affirmative part of it, than formerly. There is some difficulty in accounting for the blocking up of passages and arches several yards below the surface of the ground, without admitting the existence of continuous ways for some purpose or other; and if we cannot ascertain their direct object, yet the palpable fact is not to be denied or evaded. But what has most tended to incline me to a persuasion of the existence of these hollow ways, were the appearances of a subterranean passage, discovered on sinking the cellars for the buildings now standing on the site of the old Lamb-row. Here was found a distinctly marked road, about five feet wide, and more than five yards deep from the level, running the whole length of the building in an oblique direction, and without termination at either end. The road seemed to proceed in a direct line from the site of the old Friary, situate between Commonhall-street and White Friars, taking a slanting direction across the latter, and pointing obliquely across Bridge-street. At the time of sending this sheet to press, the author is engaged in prosecuting a closer research into this subject, the result of which will be given when he comes to notice our antiquities.

A little before arriving at the Bridge-gate, the street widens, and a range of good buildings on the east side forms what is called Bridge-place. The Bridge-gate has already been described (page 369), as well as the Dee mills and the bridge (pages 372-3), and nothing more remains for observation but the suburb of Handbridge, situate on the opposite bank of the river, within the parish of St. Mary-on-the-hill: it consists of narrow steep streets, built on a red rock, and almost exclusively inhabited by the lower orders. It was the property of the predecessor of the barons of Montalt at the conquest, and having probably passed with that barony to the crown, is now a royal manor, and held by lease from the king by the present Egertons of Oulton. In Domesday-book, this vill is written *Bruge*. In some deeds of the 16th Henry VIII. it is called *Hunbridge*. Handbridge was the suburb that generally fell a sacrifice to the Welsh in their predatory excursions and attacks on the city; hence, in the British language it is called *Tre-boeth*, the *burnt* or *hot town*—significant of its having been the seat of border heat and contention.

The Cathedral.

ARMS OF THE DIOCESE.

"Lo! where triumphant o'er the wreck of years
 The time-worn Fabrick lifts its awful form:
 Scath'd with the blast its sculptur'd form appears,
 Yet frowns defiance on th' impetuous storm.
 What pow're—to more than giant bulk ally'd,
 Thy firm-compacted mass conspir'd to raise!
 Then hark, thee stand secure, to latest days,
 Wonder of after times—of *CHESTER*'s sires the pride."
Grenville's Monastery of St. Werburgh.

THE history of our country abounds with innumerable evidences of the overwhelming influence of the priesthood during the dark days of papal superstition; and there are perhaps none more palpable, than the number and extent of religious edifices scattered up and down in the land,

100

CHESTER CATHEDRAL.

100

and the enormous revenues with which they were endowed. And if this be a fact applicable to the kingdom generally, it is more peculiarly so in reference to every city or town, which was constituted a kind of metropolis to an ecclesiastical district. Immediately before, and at the time of the conquest, a servile devotedness to the authority of the clergy was in its zenith; and this was especially manifested by the founding of monasteries and churches, with plentiful endowments, as a work most acceptable to God, because recommended by his accredited messengers.

Of all places remarkable for the number of religious houses in ancient times, the city of Chester stood pre-eminent, and of those within the city, the cathedral has always been considered the most considerable. Before entering upon the parochial history, and a description of the parish churches, and the decayed religious establishments, it may therefore be expected, that some account should be given of this venerable pile. The principal parts of the present edifice is stated to have been erected in the reigns of Henry VI. VII. and VIII. but chiefly during the two last; though this must be understood only of the partial renewal of some portions of it, as there are innumerable evidences of its existence, in the remains of certain tombs and grave-stones still to be seen, in different places, over some of the first abbots and others who are interred here, centuries earlier than the above dates. The original foundation has already been noticed in the ecclesiastical history of the city.

In the early part of Henry the Eighth's reign, says Ormerod, the conventual buildings, occupied nearly, if not wholly, one fourth of the city. The walls connecting these, and inclosing the immediate abbey lands, extended in a direct line almost to the Northgate, intersecting the present double row of houses fronting the street and square, and which imaginary line still separates the abbey district from the parish. The city walls from thence formed their northern and eastern boundary as far as the end of Frodsham-street, between which and the abbey

their kitchen garden was situated, still called the Kaleyards, to which they had access by a postern through the wall, which is also still open, on sufferance, as an inscription over the gate informs us. A small tablet near the East-gate marks the boundary of the precincts on the southern side. Within this ample area were included their pleasure grounds, gardens, the residence of the abbot, and other superiors, together with those of subordinate rank, and various offices belonging to the domestic department of the abbey.

The cathedral, from whichever side it is viewed, presents a massive stupendous pile, and exhibits a pleasing variety of styles, in accordance with the taste of different ages ; some parts decorated with elaborate workmanship, whilst others are perfectly simple and unadorned. Its general style may be termed the Norman-Gothic, though some specimens of the early Saxon are to be found in its minor beauties. In the *Magna Britannia*, the Lysons, in noticing the small circular arches in the exterior of the north wall of the nave, conjecture that they are as ancient as the time of Leofric, the Mercian earl, who repaired and beautified the church in the eleventh century ; they are decidedly of Saxon architecture. The cathedral bears the form of an irregular cross, which may easily be accounted for on account of the different periods at which it was built ; it has also been remarked, that it does not stand in a direct east and western direction, a circumstance also adduced in proof of its high antiquity.

The following dimensions have been given to the building by a late survey, said to be accurately taken :—

External length.....	372 Feet.
Internal ditto.....	350
The nave or broad aisle	175
The choir	110
St. Mary's, or Lady's chapel.....	65
Transept external 200, internal	180
Breadth, including aisles	74½
Height of the ceiling	73
Ditto of the chapel	33
Ditto of the tower.....	127
Diameter ditto	45

The cathedral doubtless owes as much for its venerable appearance to the perishable nature of the materials of which it is formed as to its age ; for we see many structures much older than this, with less mournful evidences of decay. It is built of a soft red sandy stone, from some of the neighbouring quarries, which on exposure to the air, soon becomes friable, and gradually wastes. It is greatly to be lamented, says a writer of the present day, that owing to the low state of the chapter revenues, the whole building was suffered to fall into a serious state of dilapidation, before it was attended to. In consequence of this, some of the most distinguished and excellent parts were so completely ruined, that no art could repair or preserve them. A subscription was however set on foot throughout the diocese about a dozen years ago, and a handsome sum was collected, though insufficient to restore the grandeur of its former architectural dignity. Accordingly the repairs, as they now stand, were completed at the least possible expence, and which, although not happily harmonizing with the exquisite skill of the earlier labours, are quite competent to the preservation of the remaining greatness of this stately national ornament.

The western entrance stands pre-eminent in architectural dignity, and is said to have been the work of Abbot Ripley, who was appointed to the abbacy in 1485. It consists of a pointed door-way, placed under a large obtusely pointed window, with an ogee canopy, and filled with mullions ramified in the rich style of the ornamented gothic. On each side of the door-way are three gothic niches with canopies, and the whole is included within two slender octagonal turrets. On the right side of this entrance is the bishop's consistory court, finished in the same masterly and magnificent manner, and on the left, an entrance to the bishop's palace. It seems more than probable, that these were intended to form a basis of two western towers, and the foundation of them was laid professedly for that object with much ceremony by abbot

Birchenshaw in 1508;* but the project was most likely abandoned for want of funds. The *south-porch* of the church is in the style of the same period. On the right from the western door stands a capacious font, with the following Latin inscription above it :—“*Lateritium hic olim invenit baptisterium infans Gulielmus Moreton : marmoreum idem instituit Episcopus Kildarensis, Anno Dom. 1687.*”

Two descents by steps lead from the western entrance into the *nave*. The broad sheet of light transmitted through the fine western window discovers at once the beauty and ample dimensions of the noble aisle. It has been a subject of some speculation to account for its floor being so much below the level of the surrounding ground ; but the circumstance is easily accounted for, by the continual accession of matter conveyed into the cemeteries for ages, while on the other hand, nothing was removed therefrom. This cause has lately been satisfactorily illustrated by the removal of the earth from the external walls, the basement of which are now exhibited several feet below the former surface.

A considerable portion of the cathedral is said to have been built, or rather re-edified by three successive abbots, Oldham, Ripley, and Birchenshaw, who sustained the office between the years 1452 and 1537. The tower in the centre, is ascribed to the first of these ; the nave, or broad aisle, to the second ; and to the third, some general modifications and additions. The centre aisle is divided from the side aisles by six pointed arches on each side, sprung from clustered columns, with capitals ornamented with foliage. Just above these arches, is an ambulatory, or narrow gallery, running with little intermission round the whole building ; this, however, is in an unfinished state, there being a wooden rail substituted for the elegant quatrefoils, from which the detached pieces were designed to

* Corroborative of this intention, Webb, in the *Vale Royal*, under the date of 1508, has this notice :—“The foundation and the first stone of the (new steeple of the abbey) laid, the mayor being then present.”

be the general ballustrading, and which, says a contemporary, has a strong resemblance to a similar work at Carlisle, of the fourteenth century.

In taking leave of the broad aisle, it may be observed, that in this spacious place are occasionally held our musical festivals for the benefit of the local charities, which always prove a rich treat to the lovers of harmony. The west end upon those occasions is fitted up as an orchestra, to the centre of which the organ is removed from its usual station. These meetings are usually attended by an immense confluence of nobility and gentry from all parts of the kingdom, and the surplus of receipts above the expenditure generally amounts to from 700*l.* to 1000*l.* which is distributed to the charitable institutions of the city, according to their importance and necessities.

West of the nave, are four piers supporting the great *central tower*, which is said to have been finished in 1210. This fact has been doubted, but it is observable, that its general proportions are those of the Norman churches, and the massy piers that support it, have been obviously cut down to bear a closer resemblance to the columns near them. It is probable, that only an alteration in their form was made by Simon Ripley, and that the tower was new cased at the same period.

At the sides of the tower are the *transepts*, of very unequal proportions; the north transept has an ornamented oak roof, supported by angels holding emblems of the crucifixion. At the intersection of one of the beams are the arms of Wolsey. The ambulatory has rails formed of quatrefoils, and a lower ambulatory, not open on the north or west sides, but lighted on the east side by small round-headed arches, opening to the transept, resting on short cylindrical columns with squared capitals. At the south-east angle of this transept is an ancient vestry in a style of very early Norman architecture. The south transept used as the parish church of St. Oswald, is much larger than the opposite one.

The choir is separated from the nave by a rich gothic stone screen, above which stands the organ, said to have

been built by the celebrated artist, Smith. Its exterior is much admired for the beautiful foliated gothic panelling with which it is enriched, and is surmounted by a series of canopy work, formed by the projection of the gallery ; on the latter are painted the arms of the first earls of Chester, and their barons, together with those of the see, and the archbishop of the province. The porch of light and graceful fretwork, with its corresponding moulding, gives an appropriate finish to the whole.

Within the choir are numerous objects of curiosity and admiration. The pavement is of black and white marble. At the west end are four stalls on each side of the entrance, and there are twenty others on each side of the choir. The end and sides from the organ loft to the bishop's throne are ornamented with spiral tabernacle work, highly enriched, and probably unparalleled for neatness of execution. The desks for the singing boys are arranged on the sides of the choir, projecting from the sides of the vicars choral, and are evidently of modern construction. The following sketch of the dean's seat, may furnish an idea of the stalls generally. They appear to be the work of the 14th century, and have *miserecords* (seats turning up) with curious and ludicrous figures.

The approach to the dean's stall is up several steps, and on the door-post of the entrance is some curious carved work, of which the following is a sketch :

The bishop's throne stands on a stone base, as remarkable for its sculpture as its original use. The form is an oblong square; and each side most richly ornamented with gothic carvings, arches, and pinnacles. Around the upper part is a range of little images, designed to represent the kings and saints of the Mercian kingdom. Each held in one hand a scroll with the name inscribed. Fanatic ignorance mutilated many of the labels, as well as the figures; the last was restored about the year 1748; when, as a late humorous writer tells us, a *mason* was employed to *mend* their *majesties*; but the artist, not being very well acquainted with either *saints* or *sovereigns*, unluckily transposed their *caputs*, by putting *kings' heads* upon *queens' shoulders*, and *vice versa*. To the body of a tender, virgin saint, he placed the head of a veteran monarch! What sort of a *head* the artist must have had, we will not pretend to say: this much, however, he might truly have boasted,—that he knew how “to put old heads

- Dr. Cowper describes this piece of antiquity as a stone structure in the antique ornamental style, of an oblong quadrangular form eight feet nine inches in height, in length from east to west, seven feet six inches; in breadth from north to south, four feet eight inches, ornamented with six gothic arches (three feet four inches in height) two towards the north front, two towards the south, one at the east end, and the other at the west; above each of these is an arch, representing a window, in the same style of architecture. The same writer assumes it as an indisputable fact, that the episcopal throne is the ancient shrine of the patron saint. Mr. Pennant, however, is of a different opinion: his words are, "I beg leave to dissent from the notion of this having been the shrine of St. Werburgh, as it is popularly called. It certainly was nothing more than the pedestal on which the

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real shrine, or as the French call it, *la chasse*, stood, which contained the sacred reliques. These are made of gold, silver, *vermeil*, i. e. silver gilt, or some precious materials, and often enriched with gems of great value. They are of different forms, such as churches, cabinets, &c. and should the relique be a head, or limb, the *chasse* is made conformable to the shape of the part. These are seated usually conspicuous on an elevated place; and are always moveable, in order that they may be carried in procession, either in honour of the saint, or to divert some great calamity. Thus in 1180, the shrine of St. Werburgh was brought out to stop the rage of a fire in the city, which for a long time was invincible by every other means; but the approach of the holy remains (as our monkish writers gravely assure us) instantly proved their sanctity, by putting an end to its furious desolation."

In the chancel there were formerly four stone stalls for the officiating priests; and on the opposite side two stone recesses for the holy water and the sacred relics. The tapestry for the altar-piece is esteemed an excellent piece of workmanship; the subject a copy of Raphael's picture of Elymas stricken with blindness, which was worked at a nunnery in France. The window above contains a few fragments of its once entire and beautifully painted subject, "The genealogy of the Virgin Mary." The double line of trefoil headed arches, supported on slender pillars above the choir, give a chaste and elegant appearance to this portion of the building. In the south aisle are three tombs, supposed to be the sepulture of three of the abbots of the fourteenth century; and also one of an altar form, popularly ascribed to Henry IV. emperor of Germany, who, according to a legendary tale before noticed, was said to have escaped from his troubles and to have resided in this city; to have died there; and to have been interred in the abbey; concerning whom, however, there is a well-authenticated account, that he closed his life at Liege, in 1106.

The choir is separated from the side aisles by five pointed arches on each side, with clerestory windows

over. An ambulatory is continued under these windows, beneath which is a row of small arches, resting on light shafts, in an earlier style than that of abbot Ripley, to whom the choir has been ascribed. In both side aisles are piscinas on the sides nearest the choir; and in both the vaulting has been finished with a more acute pitch than was originally intended, which has an unpleasant effect from the awkward joining of the ribs. In the south wall of the south aisle are two wide arches, apparently part of the original building, from the form of the mouldings and other ornaments of the pilasters between them; under these arches are coffin-shaped stones; higher up, and close to the door of St. Mary's chapel, is a cupboard for relics, and a piscina opposite to it, under a rich canopy, of which the following is a tolerably good representation:

From hence, by folding doors, we are admitted into *St. Mary's chapel*, or the *Lady's chapel*, which is separated from the choir by another stone screen, apparently of modern erection. Within this chapel, Dr. Cotes, bishop of Chester, in 1554, during the dreadful persecution in Mary's reign, sat in judgment on George Marsh, a protestant minister, and condemned him to the flames for heresy. There are prayers in this chapel every morning

at six o'clock in summer, and seven in winter ; and in the choir daily, at half-past ten in the morning, and at three in the evening. This chapel consists of a middle aisle and two side aisles, handsomely vaulted with richly carved key-stones. The side aisles are divided from the middle aisle by two arches, sprung from a massy pier on each side, apparently part of the original building, cut down and clusted over with clusters of light pillars terminating in elegant pointed arches, with quatrefoils inserted in mouldings. On the north side of the chancel, which extends beyond the side aisles, are two elegant pointed arches ; one contains two piscinas, the other was apparently a seat for the officiating priest ; another pointed arch also appears in the opposite side.

The cloisters are situated on the north side of the church, and form a quadrangle about 110 feet square. The cloisters originally consisted of four vaulted walks surrounding this space ; but that on the south yielded a few years since to the insidious working of time and the elements, which has not been, and is never likely to be restored. The late Dean Cholmondeley, a liberal and zealous patron of the arts, proposed the entire restoration of all the decayed parts of this fabric, and in fact accomplished some considerable improvements ; but he terminated his valuable life before his purposes were realized, and with him fell the laudable design of repairing and preserving the long-neglected and venerable ruins. The general style is that of the fifteenth century, with carved key-stones at the intersections of the vaulting ; the windows obtusely pointed ; a lavatory projects from part of the west cloister, and extended along that of the south. Over the east cloister was a dormitory, which has either been destroyed, or suffered to fall into decay, much to the injury of the appearance of these venerable conventual ruins.

In the wall on the ruined side are six recessed semi-circular arches, resting on short pillars, of undoubted Saxon masonry. These indicate the places of sepulture of so many Norman earls. The beautiful roof of the

cloisters is enriched with numerous sculptured shields, devices, emblems, &c. that ornament the intersections of the groinings; and here also are discoverable the arms of the first earls of Chester, of Henry VII. Cardinal Wolsey, the see of York, and a sculptured figure of our Eighth Henry.

The west walk opens to the nave by an early Norman arch at the south end; and by another, now closed, it formerly opened to a passage leading to the great square of conventual offices. Another door-way opposite to the south walk (closed by a pillar placed before it, to support the present vaulting) led to an arched passage, forming the abbot's way to the church. The arches of this passage are semicircular, and the ribs unusually massy. Along the rest of this walk extends a kind of crypt, consisting of a double row of circular arches, sprung, with one exception, from short cylindrical columns. This building was probably used as a depository for the imported stores of which we may form no mean idea from a charter of the King of the Isles, to the abbot of St. Werburgh, granting ingress and egress to the vessels of the monks of the abbey, with sale and purchase of goods toll free, and right of fishery upon his coasts. From this circumstance, as well as from the capaciousness of the culinary offices, and the refectory, a tolerably correct idea may be formed of the fondness of the monks to good living. And indeed their extensive establishment, and their being privileged with the range of several manors for game, are sufficiently indicative of the persuasion of the gentry that luxury was not excluded from their table; it was also their boast and glory, that the poor were plentifully supplied with provisions from their bounty.

The north walk contained the chief entrance into the *refectory* of the convent (under a rich semicircular arch); and at the east end was a doorway leading to the culinary offices, and to the stair-case of the dormitory. Along the greater part of the north side ranged the refectory, a noble apartment, ninety-eight feet in length, and thirty-four wide, with a roof of oak resting on brackets,

which was removed about 1804. In the south-east angle, in the part where a space is left by a deficiency of windows on this side, is a flight of steps within the wall, leading to an Oratory, of which the following is a sketch :

The refectory of the monastery, on the establishment of the see, was founded and endowed by Henry VIII. and has ever since been used as a free grammar school, under the name of the King's School. In the south-west corner of this room, is a curious stone pulpit, the original use of which is not easy to conjecture, unless it was designed for the reading of lectures, or as a station from which to entertain the monks with music during their feasts ; it is highly finished in the gothic style, and is deserving of close attention.

In the centre of the area, anciently called the *Sprice*, but more recently the *Preese*, where a grass-plat is now formed, there was an old cistern, of which the cavity still remains, into which water was brought by pipes from Christleton for the use of the monks. [See vol. i. p. 431.] By the accumulation of stones and dirt for generations, the ground within this area had risen nearly to the bottom of the stone window frames, when in 1827, the earth was sunk three or four feet deep, and the rubbish removed, under the direction of the late Dean Copleston, whose zealous and disinterested services in improving the cathedral and parish church I shall again have occasion to

record. The windows of the cloisters were originally glazed, but the glass has long since disappeared, and even its beautiful frames and slender mullions are fast falling, unregarded, to decay and dilapidation.

That beautiful edifice, the chapter-house, stands in the walk of the east cloister, and is divided into two apartments, the first of which, the vestibule (thirty feet four inches by twenty-seven feet four, and twelve feet high), has an arched roof supported by four columns, each surrounded with eight slender pilasters without capitals, which converge near the top of the column, and spread over the roof. Along the left side is a stone seat for the attendants on the business of the chapter. The inner apartment, or chapter-room, is fifty feet long, twenty-six feet broad, and thirty-five feet high. All the windows are in the lancet style; that at the east end consists of five lights, and a similar one is over the western entrance. An ambulatory goes round three sides of the room, and where it passes the windows is carried between the mullions, and a corresponding series of light shafts connected with them, which terminate in foliated capitals, and support the mouldings of the lancet arches above. Notwithstanding the soft nature of the stone, the carvings are beautifully fresh.

The entrances both from the cloisters and between the vestibule and the chapter-house, are gothic; but apparently of a later species of architecture than either of those rooms. The windows on each side the door of the outward entrance, were till lately of modern construction, and but ill accorded with the antiquity of the building. But it is a subject of gratulation, that during the year 1829 they were taken down to make way for others more suitable. Inside the old arch are two upright columns, with caps, above which are mullions, terminating at a point at the top, the interstices filled with diamond-formed glazing. In the chapter-house is an excellent library, belonging to the chapter, in which are many scarce MSS. carefully preserved.

Pennant fixes the foundation of the chapter-house in the time of *Randal the first*, earl of Chester, who died in

1128, after enjoying his earldom eight years. The great earl, Hugh Lupus, uncle to Randal, had been interred in the church-yard of the abbey; the first care of the nephew was to remove the body into this building, as the most honourable place—a respect which would certainly have been paid to it, had this edifice existed at the time of his death. Mr. Ormerod seems to doubt the correctness of this conjecture, as to the period of its erection: he observes, that Mr. Pennant is most probably right, in supposing that the same respect would have been paid to the remains of earl Hugh, at the time of his death, if a chapter-house had then existed; but adds, that this argument merely tends to prove that a chapter-house was built by Randal Mischines, but as far as can be inferred from the architecture, it may be reasonably doubted whether any part of the present chapter-house was erected long before the extinction of the local earldom. Admitting, however, the later period to be the correct one, this beautiful building was raised early in the thirteenth century, a distance from the present time of at least six hundred years.

In one of the wooden presses kept in the chapter-house, is preserved the head-part of a stone coffin, found here in 1724, by Mr. Henchman, a school-master: the coffin inclosed a body completely wrapped in gilt leather, the skull and bones of which, it is said, were quite fresh, and the strings which fastened together the angles entire. Immediately over the breast was a very singular covering, or shroud, made of paper nicely platted, so as to form most elegant little squares of black and white; a wolf's head is also cut on the coffin. From the latter fact, it has generally been taken for granted, that these remains were those of the great Lupus, our first local monarch; and in this conclusion our antiquary Pennant seems to concur. But notwithstanding this authority, aided by the popular sentiment, there is very good reason to doubt its correctness; for although it be true, that the wolf's head erased is clearly discernible upon the stone, indicative of the insignia of Lupus, yet, as the Lysons observe, "there is no reason for supposing it to have been co-eval

with him ;” besides, as the same writers say, armorial devices do not appear to have been introduced on works of art before Richard I. who commenced his reign nearly a century after Lupus’s death, nor on sepulchral monuments till the thirteenth century. In negating the popular opinion, it may likewise be urged, that under the wolf’s head, the stone bears, in a cypher, the initials of R. S. which can have no conceivable application to our Norman monarch. Those writers who admit the validity of this reasoning, have had recourse to our old annals, in search of distinguished individuals to whom these initials are applicable. Thus, the *Magna Britannia* suggests, that they designate those of *Rd. Seynesbury*, who was elected abbot in 1349, and what is now conjectured to be part of a coffin, is in fact the relic of some monument executed in his time, previous to his death in 1363, and burial in Lombardy. This individual, during his abbacy, was distinguished for nothing but his profligacy and delinquency, for which he was ultimately ejected by the pope.* The assumption, therefore, of this being the work of Seynesbury, in connection with the vague conjecture of the “coffin being a relic of some monument,” carries with it but a very remote probability. There is much more likelihood, that this relic designated the place of sepulture of abbot *Simon Ripley*, with whose name the initials are in perfect accordance. The name of this abbot, who occupied his station from the year 1485 to 1492, is associated with magnificent improvements in almost every portion of the abbey, and he might therefore justly be thought worthy of honourable interment in the chapter-house. In support of this hypothesis, Mr. Ormerod observes, “the initials are clearly S. R. and the wolf’s head corresponds in style of carving with a similar one introduced by Simon Ripley on the tower of Saughton manor-house.†”

* See an account of this Abbot, vol. i. p. 202-3.

† A considerable portion of the manor-house, now called *Saughton-hall*, still exists, and considering its antiquity, is in an excellent state of preserva-

The following sketches will convey some tolerable notion of the stone and shroud, as they appeared when discovered :—

THE STONE.

tion, particularly the *great entrance*, where the slide for the ancient port-cullice still remains entire. It was built by Abbot Ripley, in the fifteenth century ; it is castellated ; the outer arch pointed. On the west side is a fine lofty square tower, leaded at the top, ascended by a narrow spiral staircase, which, however, is much worn ; near to the tower is a projecting window, and underneath a wolf's head erased ; and immediately above, is a figure of the virgin and child, under a beautiful canopy. After the reformation, and the disputes relative to the lands of the dean and chapter, the manor was possessed for a great number of years by the Calveleys, and during the protectorate it was sold under the sequestration act, to Charles Walley, innkeeper of Chester, whose grandson John dying without issue, it was purchased of his widow in 1755, by Foster Cunliffe, Esq. grandfather of the present Sir Foster Cunliffe, of Acton, whose property it now is. The old mansion has long been converted into a good farm-house, which, with a suitable portion of land, has for many years been occupied by Mr. Peter Dutton. As an object of curiosity to the antiquary, particularly the ancient tower, and the sculptured devices on its walls, this old manor-house attracts very general notice ; while the fine and extensive view which it commands of the surrounding country, procures for it not unfrequent visits from the nobility and gentry. Mr. Ormerod notices a tract in the British Museum, entitled, "*Letter of a sad Tragedy by Prince Griffin, at Seyton, neere Chester, and his several attempts against the Lady Gausley, and the bloody*

PART OF THE SHROUD.

Other coffins and fragments of mortality were discovered beneath the two rooms of the chapter-house, of earls, their countesses, or of abbots; but the great leveler, death, had reduced them to indistinguishable dust.

The earls who were interred here, were Hugh, who died in 1101; Randal the first, or de Meschines, in 1128; Randal the second, or de Gernouns, who was poisoned in 1155, by William Peverel; Hugh Cyvelioc, who died at Leek in 1181; Randal the third, or de Blundeville, who died at Wallingford in 1232, where his bowels were interred; his heart was buried at the abbey of Dieulacres in Staffordshire, and his body transported to Chester: finally, John Scot, who, in 1237, underwent the same fate as Randal the second. So that every earl of the Norman line was deposited here, excepting Richard, who perished by shipwreck in 1120. Of the abbots, Geofry, who died in 1208, and six others, were buried in the chapter-house, or its vestibule.

On quitting this beautiful office, we turn to the right, and proceeding through a vaulted passage, called the Maiden aisle, we gain the site of the once extensive kitchens, cellars, &c. belonging to the monastery, but which have all been swept away to make room for modern alterations. Above these may still be seen the remnants of the ancient dormitory; here also is a view of the outside of the chapter-house; and those who have witnessed its inward excellence, will lament the progress of decay obviously discernible in its outward appearance.

murder for which he is fled into Scotland. London, printed for A. C. and A. W. 1648." To what incident this tract refers is a secret.

Having taken a general view of the history of this ancient structure, at considerable length, and incorporated some incidents which may not be thought altogether unworthy of notice, my task may still be thought incomplete, without noticing the memorials of the dead which it contains. I must premise, however, that my proposed limits will not allow entering into a lengthened detail, or quoting at large those effusions of affection or friendship, which generally adorn the tombs of departed mortality. There are a few, however, which may claim a more especial regard; but still the list must be considered rather select than general; the epitaph form of breaking the inscriptions into distinct lines is dispensed with, in order to avoid unnecessary extension.

MONUMENTS, INSCRIPTIONS, &c. IN THE CATHEDRAL OF CHESTER.

William Nicholls, of Chorlton, Esq. F.S.A. and deputy registrar, died Aug. 19, 1809, aged 49.

An elegant pyramidal marble monument, by Nollekens, the upper part representing a female figure leaning on a rock, below which is a broken anchor, with armorial bearings; inscribed, "Anna Helena Matthews, daughter of Peter Legh, Esq. of Booths, in this county, and Anne his wife, died Nov. VIII. MDCCXCIII. In memory of her amiable disposition, her liberality of mind, and conjugal affection, her husband, John Matthews, captain in the royal navy, has erected this monument."

A pyramidal marble monument, by Nollekens; over the inscription a boy weeping over an urn, inscribed, "Sacred to the memory of Samuel Peploe, LL.D. chancellor of the diocese of Chester, and warden of the collegiate church in Manchester. He died Oct. 22, 1721, aged 82 years."

A monument to the late Dean Smith, D.D. in white marble, executed by Banks, representing a weeping figure, sitting by the side of an urn, inscribed, Blessed are they that mourn: at her left hand lie three volumes, lettered Longinus, Thucydides, and Xenophon, over which is laid an inverted academical cap.*

Against the same pillar is the following inscription on a neat tablet, ornamented with a bust of Arch. Travis—"Sacred to the memory of the Rev. George Travis, M.A. late archdeacon of Chester, and vicar of Eastham, in this county, who departed this life Feb. XXIV, MDCCXCVII. He was a

* For the inscription on this monument, see vol. i. p. 321.

man of extensive learning, active mind, and generous heart, which were assiduously exerted in the service of religion, his country, and his neighbour; his loss will be long regretted, and his virtues ever revered. Reader! this eulogy is no flattery, but the sincere testimony of a surviving friend."

The monument of Mrs. Barbara Dod; a bust (a very inelegant one) is fixed over the inscription. Under it the arms of Dod and Morgill, quarterly — "To the memory of Mrs. Barbara Dod, who devised her estate in Bough-ton and Childer Thornton, in the county of Chester, to the minor canons of this cathedral. She was daughter of Randal Dod, of Edge, in the same county, Esq. by Barbara his wife, daughter and heir of William Morgill, of Gray's Inn, Esq. She died in London, July the 15th, A.D. 1703, and was interred the 26th, at St. Martin's church in the Fields; and for the perpetuation of the memory of such a benefactrix, the present minor canons, J.D. R.T. T.L. J.S. have with gratitude, in honour to her name, erected this monument, an. dom. MDCCXXIII."

In the north aisle is a large mural monument, decorated with military trophies, and inscribed as follows:—"Sacred to the memory of Captain John Phillips Buchannan, of the 16th, or queen's regiment of light dragoons, who in the glorious and decisive battle of WATERLOO, on the 18th day of June, 1815, was killed by a musket shot in the hour of victory, in the 27th year of his age. Accomplished in all the qualities which distinguish the soldier, or adorn the gentleman; his courage, his zeal, and devotion to his profession, whilst actively and unceasingly engaged in the memorable campaigns in Portugal, in Spain, and in France, acquired him the friendship, the confidence and just admiration of his brother officers. In the more retired scenes of private life, he was no less exemplary, superior to every mean and selfish consideration; he was uniformly liberal, affectionate, and unassuming; and whilst his ingenuous disposition and unaffected manners secured the confidence and esteem of all, the loss which his family and friends have sustained by his glorious but untimely death, can never be contemplated without emotions of deep and sincere regret. His afflicted mother, and only surviving parent, has caused this monument to be erected to the memory and virtues of a beloved and lamented son."

Over the steps leading to the great western entrance, is a beautiful marble monument, executed by T. Gibson, of Liverpool, inscribed:—"Died in the cantonment of Moulmein, in the Burman empire, on the 2nd of February, 1829, Major THOMAS HILTON, late in command of the 45th regiment of foot, aged 40; after a service of 24 years in his Majesty's army, and 20 of that period in the 45th, in which he served with the highest honour to himself, and credit to his corps, sharing with it in the greater number of the many distinguished laurels acquired by that regiment during the peninsular war. As the last tribute of respect and esteem, for the soldier-like and many amiable qualities that distinguished him as a commanding officer and friend; this monument is erected by Lieut.-Col. VIGOREUX, C.B. and the Officers of the 45th regiment." Two banners wave below the above inscription, and the following places, illustrative of the battles Major Hilton had been engaged in, also appear:—"Roleia, Talavera, Fuentes d'Onor, Cuidad, Badajos, Vittoria, Nivelle, Toulouse, Vimiera, Busaco, Rodrigo, Salamanca, Pyrenees, Orthes, Peninsula, Ava."

On the same side of the entrance, a large monument, ornamented with twisted pillars, weeping figures, and foliage in a bad taste, but much laboured, inscribed:—"To the perpetual memory of the eminently loyal Sir

WILLIAM MAINWARING, Esq. eldest son of Edmund Mainwaring, Esq. chancellor of the county palatine of Chester, of the ancient family of the Mainwarings, of Peover, in this county. He died in the service of his prince and country, in the defence of the city of Chester, wherein he merited singular honour for his fidelity, courage, and conduct. He left by Hester his lady (daughter and heiress unto Christopher Wase, in the county of Bucks, Esq.) four sons and two daughters. His eldest daughter Judith, married unto Sir John Busby, of Addington, in the county of Bucks, Kt. His youngest daughter Hester unto Sir Thomas Grobbham How, of Kempley, in the county of Gloucester, Kt. He died honourably, but immaturesly, in the twenty-ninth year of his age, Oct. 9, 1644. His lady relict erected this monument of her everlasting love, and his never-dying honour, Oct 25, 1671."

On the south side of the nave, a very neat marble tablet, executed by Bacon, with this inscription :—" Sacred to the memory of **AUGUSTA**, the pious and tender wife of the Rev. James Slade, M.A. prebendary of this cathedral, and the beloved daughter of Geo. H. Law, Lord Bishop of the diocese. Patient under much bodily suffering, exemplary in the discharge of all the duties of life, she shewed both in her faith and practice, what it is to be a christian. Her mournful relations, deeply as they deplore their loss, yet grieve not as those without hope ; but humbly trusting in the mercies of God through Jesus Christ, they look beyond the grave to their reward in heaven. Born November 15th, 1788 ; deceased May 5th, 1822.—*Pater Moerins Posuit.*

An elegant marble monument on the west end of the nave, inscribed :—" Here lie the remains of **WILLIAM WALLEY**, Esq. late captain in the 23rd regiment of foot, or royal Welsh fusileers, who departed this life at Birkenhead, in this county, on the 28th day of July, in the year of our Lord 1827, aged 44 years. The military career of this gallant officer (which commenced at the capture of Copenhagen, and after being extended throughout the peninsular war, terminated gloriously at Waterloo, and the consequent capitulation of Paris) was distinguished by the union of many of the best qualities which at once characterize and ennoble the genuine British soldier. To perpetuate the memory of his valour as an officer, and of his sterling merit as a man, this monument has been erected by his affectionate sisters."

In the north aisle of the nave, a neat marble tablet, executed by Mr. J. Wright, with this inscription :—" To the revered memory of Margaret, the wife of the Rev. John Halton, who died August 5th, 1824 ; this tablet is erected by her affectionate and grateful sister, Frances Taylor. The righteous is delivered out of trouble. Prov. xi. 8." This inscription is surmounted by a pretty circular device, inclosing this passage of holy writ, "Thy will be done."

In the same aisle, and nearer to the east door of the cloisters, is a handsome tablet, inscribed :—" To the memory of Lieutenant **LAWRENCE WILLIAM HALSTED**, of the 87th, or Royal Irish Fusileers, who died in Chester castle, March 14th, 1829, aged 28 years.* This monument is erected in testimony of their respect and esteem, by his brother officers."

* This young gentleman's death was occasioned by a fall from the officers' barracks in the upper ward of the castle. He had dined with the mess in the afternoon, and in the course of the evening fell through the window into the field below, a height of above sixteen yards. On taking him up, he was totally insensible, and much bruized ; the lower vertibræ of his back was dislocated and fractured, which paralyzed the lower extremities, and brought on a mortification. He lingered in great pain for six or seven days, and then terminated his earthly existence.

The north transept is graced with a beautiful Cenotaph of the late worthy **SIR JOHN GREY EGERTON, Bart.** of Oulton Park, in this county, which is the more deserving notice, from the circumstance of its having been erected by the voluntary and spontaneous liberality of the citizens of Chester, by whom he was highly esteemed. His remains were interred in the family vault at Budworth, on the 8th of June, 1825, when an immense concourse of people from the surrounding country, and particularly from the city of Chester, attended to pay honour to his obsequies. The following is a sketch of the monument, with the inscription under it :—

" Sacred to the memory of **Sir John Grey Egerton, Baronet**, of Oulton Park, in the county of Chester, Provincial Grand Master of the ancient, free and accepted Masons of the county palatine of Chester, and one of the representatives of the city of Chester, in two successive Parliaments. Born 11th July, 1766, died 25th May, 1825.—To record his many virtues, exciting that admiration which he obtained from all, yet sought from none, his fellow-citizens and friends, truly attached to him when living, and deeply lamenting him now dead, have erected this monument, desiring by their humble memorial of gratitude and affection, to hold up for example the manly uprightness, the unswerving rectitude, the generous benevolence, the unchanging friendship, the zealous and incorruptible patriotism, which ever marked the character, and guided the conduct of their honourable and independent Representative."

Of about twenty-eight monuments that occupy the nave, its aisles, and the north transept, the above selection, which embraces the principal ones, may suffice.

In the **CHOIR** are four monuments only, namely, those of Bishop Stratford, who died 1706-7; Bishop Peploe, who died 1752; Dean Arderne, died 1691; and Archdeacon Entwistle, died 1707.

NORTH AISLE OF THE CHOIR.—On a plain flag stone is a memorial of a laborious Cheshire antiquary, the Rev. John Stones, A.M. who was one of the minor canons and sacrist of the cathedral, and rector of Coddington. On the stones in this aisle are also memorials of two sons of Archdeacon Entwistle; and of the Rev. John Prince, minor canon, and rector of Thurstaston; he died Nov. 30, 1795, aged 73.

SOUTH AISLE.—Are memorials of the Rev. Thomas Ince, A.M. died April 5, 1766; and of Susan his relict, 1767. Charles Henchman, 1780; and of his wife, son, and two daughters. Under a wide arch sunk in the south wall, which, from the ornaments attached to the pillars near it, appears part of the original building, is a coffin-shaped stone over the remains of some abbot, with a cross fleury on the lid.

Nearly opposite to this, is the altar tomb traditionally ascribed to Henry, Emperor of Germany; but more probably covering the remains of one of the later abbots.

MEMORIALS IN ST. MARY'S CHAPEL.

In the north aisle are three memorials of the Gastrell family, on large flag-stones, two of which are inlaid with marble. The style of the compositions is tumid and bombastic in the extreme; I shall here introduce only one of them, which will amply justify this remark, and afford a sufficient specimen of bad taste:—"Underneath are deposited the remains of Edward Peregrine Gastrell, Esq. who resigned this life the 24th of February, 1772, aged 64. Is this his death-bed? No! it his shrine. Behold him rising to an angel; entering the harbour like a gallant, stately vessel, he hoists his flag of hope, through the merits of our blessed Redeemer, riding before a stately gale of atonement, till he makes, with all the sail of an assured faith, the happy port of a joyful resurrection. He lived in the fear and love of God, and died in Christ. Believe, and look with triumph on his tomb."

In the centre aisle are memorials to the memory of Lawrence Fogg, prebendary of the cathedral, who died February 27, 1718, aged 88.—William Fynmore, archdeacon and prebend, 1686, aged 63.—William Case, subdeacon, 1634.—Rev. E. Mainwaring, A.M. prebend, 1780, aged 71.—Rev. Abel Ward, A.M. archdeacon, 1785, aged 68.—James Falconer, Esq. 1738.—John Leche, alderman, 1639.—Edward Roberts, deputy registrar, 1754, aged 73.—Rev. Thomas Tonman, 1785, aged 64.—John Tonman, Esq. 1786, aged 21.—Lieut.-Gen. Henry Whitley, colonel of the 9th regiment, and Maria his wife, 1771.—Peter Hughes, A.M. rector of Caerwys, Flintshire, 1778.—William Williams, vicar of Godmanchester, 1782.—Thomas Hughes, Esq. Voynal, Cardiganshire, 1807, aged 66.—Rev. C. Henchman, A.M. 1741.—Charles Henchman, Esq. 1810, aged 72.—Frances, wife of

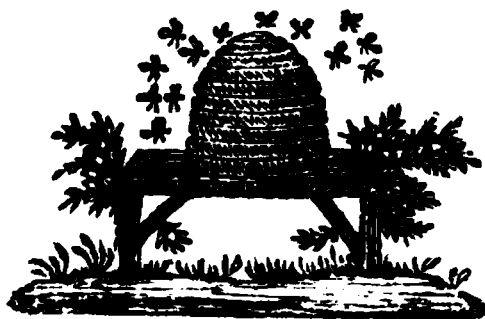
George Salusbury Townshend, Esq. 1775.—George Salusbury Townshend, Esq. 1801.—Maria Georgiana, daughter of Admiral Bowen, 1810, aged 18 years.—With several others of minor importance.

Other memorials recently placed in St. Mary's Chapel.—Against the north pier of the south aisle, is a handsome monument of white marble :—
“Sacred to the memory of BARBARA, the wife of HUGH ROBERT HUGHES, Esq. of Bache-hall, near this city, and daughter of John Bodychan Sparrow, Esq. of Red-hill, in the county of Anglesea. She died very deeply lamented, on the 31st December, 1824, in the 38th year of her age. This mournful tribute to her cherished memory and eminent virtues, was erected by her affectionate husband.”

On the west side of the north aisle, a neat marble tablet, with the following inscription :—“Near this place are interred the mortal remains of the Rev. Thomas Maddock, M.A. late prebendary of this cathedral, rector of the Holy Trinity, in this city, and Northenden, in this county. He died the 12th day of February, 1825, in the 64th year of his age, and the fortieth of his ministry in this city. This monument was raised by his affectionate widow, Emma Anne, and sincerely attached sisters, Margaret and Mary Maddock.—And now, Lord, what is my hope? Truly my hope is in thee.”
Ps. xxxix. 8.

On the floor, the north side of the communion, a stone, inscribed, “Rev. E. W. Barnard, Jan. 10, 1828, aged 36 years.—Emily Barnard, Jan. 6, 1828, aged 16 months—Hail! and Farewell!”

In the wall of one of the piers on the west side, a plain slab, with this inscription ;—“Griffith Rowlands, Esq. surgeon, died the 29th of March, 1828, in the 66th year of his age.”



Parochial History.

PARISH AND CHURCH OF ST. OSWALD.

THIS parish is more extensive in its limits than any other within the city; it extends into the county palatine, and comprehends Idenshaw, in the hundred of Edisbury; Croughton and Crabwall, in Wirral hundred; the island of Hilbree at the mouth of the Dee, and Bache, Wervin, and Great Boughton, in Broxton hundred. In this last hundred it has also the dependant chapelry of Bruera, consisting of the townships of Church-en-Heath (Churton), Saughton, Huntington, and Lea-cum-Newbold.

From the site of the Benedictine abbey of St. Werburgh being situated within this parish, it has been improperly denominated in several official returns the parish of St. Werburgh. After the introduction of regular monks into the monastery of St. Werburgh, anciently dedicated to the Holy Trinity and St. Oswald, the name of this patron saint was retained by that part of the conventual church, which was set apart for the use of the inhabitants of the parish, within which the monastery was placed. This part probably occupied the site of that transept of the cathedral which forms the present parish church.

In the chartulary of St. Werburgh is an entrance from Roger, bishop of Coventry, compelling the parishioners of St. Oswald's parish to inclose their cemetery, and to repair that wing of the nave of the church of St. Werburgh, adjoining to the cemetery. The name of St. Oswald does not, however, appear to have been originally used for the parish. In the licence of appropriation by William Cornhull, bishop of Coventry, it is called the parish church of St. Werburgh, and it is called by the

same name in another curious document, whereby the abbot compounds to pay to the rector of Stoke a certain pension in consideration of receiving in right of his parish church of St. Werburgh, and his chapel of Wervin, the tithes and church dues of Stoke, and retaining the right of burying within the cemetery of St. Werburgh the bodies of those dead in Croughton, Stoke, Stanney, Holme, and half of Whitby. An abstract of the licence for appropriation, and the ordination of the vicarage, extracted from the chartulary of St. Werburgh, are subjoined in a note.*

In an architectural point of view, the church of St. Oswald's forms an essential part of the Cathedral, of which it is the south transept; but is a parish church to all civil and ecclesiastical purposes. This transept is said to have stood on the site of the first church of *St. Peter and St. Paul*, which was afterwards changed to that of the *Holy Trinity*, and finally to the name it now bears. On the rebuilding of the church, this transept was designedly enlarged, and allotted by the monks to the

* *Charta Will'i Ep'i de Appropriatione Vicariæ S'c'i Oswaldi et Capellar. de Bruerd et Wyrvin. Harl. MSS. 1965, and 2103. 168.*

Will'mus Covent. ep'us totum alteragium p'ochialis eccl'ie S'c'e Werburge cum ejus pertinen. et capellis de Bruera et Wirvin et earum pertinen. integre et plenarie in proprios usus monach. Cest. confirmavit; salvo quidem jure mag. Hugo. de S'c'o Oswaldo, quod in illo alteragio habuit, quamdiu vixerit: ita quidem quod p't ejus decessum d'c'i monachi per aliquem ab confratribus suis, parochianis d'c'e eccl'ie divina administrent.

Ordinac'o Simo. de Baliden sup. Vicariâ S'c'i Oswaldi.

Licet per Alex. quendam Coven. episcopum extitit ordinatum, quod vicar. altar. S'c'i Oswaldi in mensa abb't's honestè pen'm et annuatim xls. p'cipiat, tamen q'd per sedem ap'licam fuit statutum quod facultates eccl'iar. vicar. ordinari debeant, mag'r Symon de Baliden offic. Rogeri Covent. ep'i. ordinavit, quod vicar. d'c'i altar. cum portionibus p'd'c'is h'eat in perpetuum unam bovata terre in villa de Bruera cum magno gardino, et totum alteragium cap'le d'c'e ville, salvis Abb'i et conventui mortuariis et oblac'onibus pro mortuis faciendis; et q'd h'eat unam mansam in P'soneslone per d'c'os monachos assignat. et unam robam humanam de secta cl'icorum: et d'c'us vicar. d'c'e capelle de Bruera per unum capellanum et cl'icum suis sumptibus prout decet honeste faciet deserviri; et alium capellanum sibi socium suis sumptibus in eccl'iâ S'c'e Werburge, qui per quatuor dies cujuslibet septimane in altari S'c'i Oswaldi, et per tres dies in capella de Boughton ministrabit. D'c'us vero abbas antiquam sustentabit hospitalitatem.

neighbouring inhabitants, who were for the most part servants and tenants belonging to the abbey. It does not appear, that the abbots and monks felt satisfied in a surrender of what they considered a portion of their own precincts, to the use of the laity ; and therefore attempted to divert their attachments from this sacred edifice, by building and endowing with a vicarage another structure, to which they gave the name of the chapel of St. Nicholas, which was situated a little to the south-west of the Cathedral. The inhabitants, however, disliking their accommodations, or probably jealous of the usurpation of the monks, made some efforts to be restored to their former church ; and by a composition between the mayor and Abbot Ripley, about the year 1488, the south transept was again appropriated to their use, of which they have retained possession ever since. The chapel of St. Nicholas now fell into disuse ; and was subsequently consigned to secular purposes.*

Notwithstanding that the parishioners seem to have felt themselves secure in the undisturbed possession of their parish church, yet a century after the dissolution of the monastery, a latent wish was discoverable in the ecclesiastical rulers to exclude them from this portion of the building. Bishop Bridgeman attempted to remove the preaching of sermons on Sundays and holidays to the nave of the Cathedral. For this purpose, some

* Old *Webb*, who wrote nearly 200 years ago, gives the following account of the transmutation of this building, after it had been abandoned, as a place for divine worship :—"It seems that the chapel of St. Nicholas, serving to little use, the citizens purchased it unto themselves, and made thereof a two-fold use of great conveniency ; and dividing the same by a floor in the middle thereof, the lower room was appointed for the stowage of wool, corn, cloth, and other commodities, to be vented and sold by foreigners and strangers, at times allowable in the city. And the upper room for a *stately senate-house*, for the assemblies, elections, courts of his highness, crownmote for pleas of the crown, kept there before the mayor, recorder, and aldermen, that are his Majesty's justices of the peace, every six weeks, and for the portmote of common pleas every fortnight ; and for the court of record for the city, called the Pentice court, held before the sheriffs thrice a week, except sometimes other business will not permit ; and the county court, for the county of the city, according as the law appoints."

preparations were made; a pulpit was provided, and it was most probably intended to place pews in the broad aisle; but the parishioners so effectually resisted what they deemed an infringement of their rights, that the scheme was abandoned.*

Previous to the year 1525, there were no seats in this church, excepting those appropriated to the mayor and corporation. An old author who wrote about 1622, says, "In this parish church is the great assembly both of the mayor, aldermen, sheriffs, peers, and *the whole city*, to hear the sermons on the Lord's-day, and other festivals, especially in the forenoon, being indeed the most spacious and fit place for that occasion."

Additional accommodations were afterwards made; but the church had become greatly dilapidated and unfit for divine worship, when Bishop Law presided in the diocese. That prelate therefore directed the parishioners to put it into complete repair. Accordingly the whole was new flagged and pewed; a new pulpit and reading desk added; and the old gallery, which was at the west side, taken down, and a new one erected at the south end; the walls were cleaned, and the whole, as far as possible,

* In noticing this subject, the author of *King's Vale Royal* warmly eulogizes the zeal and piety of the bishop, although the laity appear to have entertained very different views.—"Lately" (says he) "the lower end of the broad ile is graced with the beginning of such a monument as may, to our posterity, be of more fame and worth than all the rest in this ancient fabrick, if either the right reverend father, Dr. John Bridgeman, the now lord bishop, or his successors, do finish that preaching place which his lordship hath already began, with the erection of as fair a pulpit of carved work in wainscot as I have any where seen; and if ever it be accomplished with convenient pews, and provisions for the auditors, as is already for the preachers, it is like to be a most stately place for the public sermons of the city, and an ornament to the whole diocese. And, as no doubt his lordship was moved to this intendment, by beholding the frequency and great concurrence of the people to the public sermons here, and how they are straightened in the churches in our great assemblies; so that after-ages shall have cause to praise the God of heaven for his lordship's godly care, who seems to be persuaded such goodly spacious buildings of our forefathers should not serve only for idle walks for our feet, and gazing objects for our eyes, but for the service of the great King of heaven and earth, to whom all places of decency and convenience should, by all means, be employed or dedicated in one degree or another."

renewed, so that it is now one of the neatest churches in the city. This improvement is commemorated by the following inscriptions on two tablets; the first placed in the front of the gallery :—"This church was repaired and beautified, and the gallery erected at the expense of the parish, in the year of our Lord 1826. Joseph Eaton, M.A. F.S.A. Vicar; Jam Smith, Jacob Lilly Podmore, Churchwardens; John Lancaster, Samuel Crabtree, Overseers; William Cole, architect."—The other, placed on the west aisle of the church, has this inscription: "The accommodation in this church was enlarged in the year 1826, by which means 322 additional sittings were obtained, and in consequence of a grant from the society for promoting the enlargement and building of churches and chapels, 302 of that number are hereby declared to be free, and unappropriated for ever, and are in addition to 18, formerly provided. Joseph Eaton, M.A. F.S.A. Vicar. James Smith, Jacob Lilly Podmore, Churchwardens."

To these improvements, several others were added by the munificence of dean Copleston. Hitherto the screen which divided the parish church from the side aisles of the nave and choir was comparatively low; but this he raised to the roof; a handsome throne for the bishop was also placed against this screen inside the church, on each side of which is an elevated seat, one for the dean, and the other for the precentor. Under the superintendence of Dr. Copleston also, the ground within the cloisters, and the church-yard was lowered to its level, and a trench dug round the building from south to north, in order to preserve the interior from dampness. Other material improvements owe their origin to this truly zealous and learned divine, and he was projecting more, when he was elevated to the see of Llandaff in 1827. A memorial of his distinguished services is preserved in a handsome tablet, fixed immediately over the bishop's throne in the church, which bears the following inscription:—"This tablet is raised by the parishioners of St. Oswald's, to express their sense of the munificence of the Right Rev. Edward Copleston, D.D. Lord Bishop of

Llandaff, late Dean of Chester, who erected this screen at his own expense. It was completed A.D. 1828."

On account of the cathedral service occupying the usual canonical hours in the forenoon, the morning service in this church commences at nine o'clock in the forenoon, an arrangement rendered necessary by its contiguity to the choir.

The vicar is presented by the dean and chapter. He has the tithes of Church-en-Heath, a part of all the tithes of Saughton, and the hamlet of Newbold, and a composition of 5*l.* from Lea. Huntington and part of Saughton are tithe free. The tithes of the other townships are held under the dean and chapter by various impropriators.

The registers commence in 1580 for the parish church, and those of the cathedral in 1687.

According to the census of 1821, the population of the parish was 4,334; and in the cathedral precincts, 270.

VICARS OF ST. WERBURGH.

<i>Presented.</i>	<i>Vicars.</i>	<i>Patrons.</i>	<i>Vacancy.</i>
1216. Mag'r Hugo de S'e'o Oswaldo			
1310. D'nus Johannes de Faches Abbas Cestr.			
1364. Hugh de Coton	Abbas Cestr.		
1404. D'nus Willielmus Hickekyne Abbas Cestr.			
Robertus Drakelow			
1411. Johannes Torbock	Abbas Cestr.	P. m. Rob. Drakelow.	
Johannes Barrow			
1469. Johannes Tomlinson	Ab. S. Werb.	P. m. John Barrow.	
1473. Johannes Rochbottom	Ab. S. Werb.	P. m. Jo. Tomlinson.	
1492. Henricus Reynford	Ab. S. Werb.		
1540. Richard Davys			
Richard Burgess			
1574. William Cowper	Dean and Chapter.	Death Rd. Burgess.	
1580. Martin Rawney	Ditto	Death W. Cowper.	
1581. John Whitope	Ditto	Depriv. Mar. Rawney.	
1599. Rowland Thicknesse	Ditto	Death John Whitope.	
1626. William Case	Ditto		
1642. John Glendole	Ditto		
1672. Lawrence Fogge	Ditto		
1699. Arthur Fogge	Ditto	Res. Law. Fogge.	
1739. Richard Jackson	Ditto	Death Arthur Fogge.	
1761. Charles Henchman	Ditto	Res. Rich. Jackson.	

1783. Thomas Broadhurst	Ditto	Death Ch. Henchman.
1803. Thomas Mawdesley	Ditto	Death Th. Broadhurst
1819. Joseph Eaton	Ditto	Resigned.
1827. William Harrison	Ditto .....	.....

MONUMENTS IN ST. OSWALD'S CHURCH.

Of all the monuments noticed by Webb, as decorating this church in his time, there are now only three remaining, namely, those of Sir William Gerard, Thomas Green, and the brass for Foulk Aldersey.

There are five memorials to different branches of the family of Booth, of Woodford, viz.—1. On a blue flag-stone, Thomas Booth, eldest sonne of Willim Booth, Esq. died the 3rd day of January, 1622, at the house of his grandfather Sir George Booth, knight and baronet, in this citie of Chester.—2. On a brass plate on the next stone, *Johannis Booth, equitis aurati, filii natu minimi Georgii Booth de Dunham Massie, in agro Cestrensi, equitis aurati et baronetti. Obiit nono die Maii, anno salutis MCLXXXVIII.*—3. At the feet of these slabs, on a white mural monument of marble, ornamented with the arms of Booth impaling Hawtry, is an inscription to the memory of Martha, the wife of George Booth, of the house of Dunham Massey, Esq, who died the 6th of May, 1718.—4. Adjoining to this, another mural monument of white marble, fixed to the east wall of the church, in the north angle, and ornamented with the arms of Booth in a lozenge, a crescent for difference is inscribed to Elizabeth Booth, daughter of Sir John Booth, younger son of Sir George Booth, of Dunham Massey. She died September 11, 1734, in the year of her age 96.—5. Near this, against the screen which divides this transept from the south aisle of the choir, is fixed a plain marble tablet, surmounted with the arms of Howard impaling Booth, with a Latin inscription:—*S. jacet Catherina, Georgii Booth, arm. filia, ex Warringtonia nobili domu. Ob. Feb. d. 8, A. D. 1765, æt 93.*

On a brass plate near these:—“Emma Currie, died 25th of April, 1816, aged near eight months, the infant daughter of Lieut.-Col. Currie, who lost his life in the battle of Waterloo, 18 June, 1815.”

Near to the altar is a monument decorated with military trophies, with the following inscription:—“Underneath lies the body of Colonel Richard Wills, brother to the Honourable Lieutenant-General Wills, who married Mrs. Elizabeth Barclay, daughter of the lady Catherine Barclay, and niece to the right Honourable James Earl of Barrymore. He departed this life the 21st of July, in the year of our Lord 1719, in the 50th year of his age. This monument was erected to his memory by his mournful and beloved widow Elizabeth Wills, 1720.”

Against the last pillar of the east aisle, a painted tablet with the arms and quarterings of Wynne impaling Glyne, inscribed, “You will find there doth lie interred under a stone near this place, the body of Catherine, the only daughter of Thomas Glyne, of Glynnelivon, in the co. of Caernarvon, Esq. late wife of Rowland Wynne, of Llanunda in the same county, Esq.

She died on the 19th day of April, anno domini 1698, being the 58th year of her age."

Near the font, a mural monument, inscribed, "Near the foot of this marble lies interred, in hopes of a joyful resurrection, the body of Sarah, relict of Samuel Jarvis, Esq. who departed this life July the 17th, 1748, aged thirty-seven."

On the screen, and near to the bishop's throne, is a neat marble tablet, executed by Mr. Wright, of this city, "To the memory of Simeon Leet, chemist, of this city, who departed this life, November 18th, 1826, aged 34. The tablet was erected to his beloved memory by his affectionate wife and mother.

He heard a voice they could not hear,
Which said, No longer stay,
He saw a hand they could not see,
Which beckoned him away."

On the west side, another tablet, "Sacred to the memory of Anne Lowe, wife of John Lowe, of this city, who died 9th of July, 1820, aged 42 years. Devoted to the duties of domestic life, the instruction of her children, and the exercise of practical religion, she lived and died an affectionate wife, a tender parent, and a sincere christian. Also underneath are interred the remains of their three children."

Interior of St. John's Church, Chester.



PARISH AND CHURCH OF ST. JOHN.

This church occupies the site of the dissolved collegiate church dedicated to the same saint, and the cathedral of the Norman diocese of Chester. The foundation of this church is ascribed by Webb to Ethelred, King of Mercia, and stated on the authority of Giraldus to have taken place in the year 689. This authority is adopted by the author of the Polycronicon, and thus *harmoniously* recorded :—

“ The year of grace six hundred fourscores nine,
 As saith my author, a Briton, Giraldus,
 King Ethelred minding most the bliss of heaven,
 Edified a college church, notable and famous,
 In the suburbs of Chester, pleasant and beautiful,
 In the honour of God and the Baptist Saint John,
 With the help of Bishop Wulfrice and good exhortation.”

The cause for the selection of the particular spot on which this church stands, is thus recorded in King's Vale Royal, which every one is at liberty to receive or reject, according to the caliber of his credulity :—“ King Ethelred, minding to build a church, was told, that where he should see a white hind, there he should build a church ; which hind he saw in the place where St. John's church now standeth ; and in remembrance whereof, his picture was placed in the wall of the said church, which yet standeth on the side of the steeple towards the west, having a white hind in his hand.”

Bishop Tanner apprehends the real founder to be Ethelred, earl of Mercia, who died in 912. According to the Chronicle of St. Werburgh, and William of Malmsbury, this church, then collegiate, was repaired in 1057, by Leofric, earl of Mercia, and its endowments and privileges considerably enlarged. It is thus noticed in Domesday :—“ *Ecclesia Sancti Johannis in civitate, habet viii. domos quietas ab omni consuetudine : una ex his est matricularii ecclesiæ, aliæ sunt canonicorum.*” The same record also observes, that Redcliffe, which then belonged to the bishop “ *prius ad ecclesiam sancti Johannis pertinebat.*”

At this period, as mentioned in the account of the bishopric, the see of the diocese was then placed within this church by Peter then bishop, but was translated to Coventry by his successor Robert de Limesey. After that period St. John's returned to its former collegiate establishment, but was long afterwards considered and denominated one of the three cathedrals of the diocese, and retained in its immediate neighbourhood a palace of the bishop, and the mansion of the archdeacon of Chester, the remains of its former importance.

At the dissolution in 1547, the college consisted of one dean, and seven prebends, or canons, a number which agrees with that of the houses belonging to the church, at the time of the domesday survey. There were also four vicars (one of whom is called a prebendary in the pension roll) a clerk, and a sexton. The dean in the first instance retired on a pension of xiv*l.* vs. but afterwards was made dean of Chester cathedral. Manwaring obtained a prebend in the same. Whitbie and Whitton (other prebendaries) were living on pensions in 1556, as were also Houghton, one of the vicars, and Ratclyf, and ap Griffythe, clerk and sexton. In the ecclesiastical taxation of 1291, this church was valued at 26*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

Within this church was a chantry dedicated to St. Mary, which is unnoticed in the certificate of the commissioners at the dissolution. It will perhaps admit a doubt whether it was the monasterium S. Mariæ juxta ecclesiam S. Johannis, mentioned in domesday, but the probability is in favour of that monastery having been removed by Earl Randal, and established as a benedictine nunnery near the castle.

Within the precincts of St. John's were also *Thorneton's Chantry, the chapel of St. Anne,* and the *chapel of St. James*, which are noticed among the minor religious foundations of the city. Another monastic institution was also connected with this church, on which bishop Tanner makes the following remarks in his *Notitia Monastica*:—“By the Lincoln taxation of the temporalities of the clergy made 1291, it should seem, as if there had been a collegiate church of the name of *the Holy Cross*, because under Archidiaconatus Cestriæ, and immediately before Abbas Cestriæ, is this memorandum: Portionarii ecclesiæ prebendalis S. Crucis Cestriæ, non habent temporalia, sed omnia quæ habent taxantur cum spiritualibus, prout firmiter asserebant: but I have yet met with no other mention of this society, nor of any church in this city, either collegiate or parochial, so dedicated.” In a note to this passage it is observed, that the words quoted occur “thus in the MS. copies of this taxation in the *Saville*

library, and also in the archives of the dean and chapter of Lincoln; but this paragraph is not in the Lichfield book, in which diocese this archdeaconry then was, nor is there in the two first-mentioned books among the spiritualities, any account of the taxation of such a church, though there is of the prebendal church of St. John." On these grounds a conjecture is hazarded, as to the possibility of the two foundations having been confounded.

The following extract from the general ecclesiastical survey, 26 Henry VIII. will give all the information which there is now any probability of obtaining on the subject. It appears that three stalls in St. John's were called the prebends of the holy cross, and that the holders of these were coparceners in certain glebe lands which then continued united and appropriated to these stalls, as they most probably had been in 1291, from the use of the same term in the valuation of that date. There can be little doubt, on the whole, says Ormerod, whose authority has been adopted in this article, that some monastic foundation dedicated to the holy cross, had previously to this merged in the college of St. John's.

It appears by the ministers' accounts in the augmentation office, 4 Edward VI. that the possessions of the college of St. John the Baptist, in the city of Chester, then lately dissolved, were as under:—

	£.	s.	d.
Scite of the late college aforesaid	1	9	0
Over and above £2. 4s. 8d. for rents and farms granted by King Edw. VI. in the third year of his reign, to Richard Roberts, his heirs and assigns for ever			
Rents of lands called the prebend's lands	12	18	6
Rents called obit rents within the said city, parcel of the said college	12	4	8
Rents called the repartition lands, belonging to the said college ..	1	19	8
The rectory of Guyldon Sutton	11	0	0
The rectory of Stoke	19	0	0
The rectory of Plamstall.....	18	10	0
The rectory of Farmedon	16	0	0
The church of Shoklache, with the chapel of St. Edith	6	0	0
The rectory of Upton	6	0	0
Certain glebe lands, and a messuage in Stoke	1	3	6
A capital messuage there.....	0	1	0
A barn, and the tythes of grain, &c. within the parish of St. John, Chester	5	0	0

	£.	s.	d.
Other tythes of St. John, in the said city	5	12	4
The rectory of St. Martin	2	13	4
The rectory of St. Bridget	5	0	0
Sum	£196	0	0

By the certificate of the commissioners it appears, that the body of the church, with one bell, was all that was deemed necessary for the use of the parishioners. The rest was probably stript of its lead, and exposed to dilapidation. In 1572, a great part of the steeple fell, and 1574, half of the whole steeple from top to bottom fell upon the west end of the church, and broke down a great part of it. In 1581, the parishioners having obtained a grant of the church from the queen, began to build some part of it again, and cut off all the chapel above the choir.

Shortly afterwards the advowson and impropriate rectory were granted to Sir Christopher Hatton, and conveyed by him to Alexander King, from whom they passed to Alexander Cotes, from which period they descended through the families of Sparkes, Wood, and Adams, to John Adams, son of the Rev. Lawrence Adams, vicar of this church, by whom they were conveyed to the Right Honourable Earl Grosvenor, the present impropriator and patron.

Ann. 44 Eliz. orders were made by the queen, under the broad seal, respecting the church and vicar of St. John's, by which the clerk, churchwardens, assessors, collectors, and auditors, were to be chosen by the parishioners. The vicar and assistant to be appointed by the impropriator and his heirs, with consent of the bishop, and if any place be vacant one month, the bishop to appoint. The vicarage of St. John's is a vicarage not charged; certified value 31*l.* 6*s.* The yearly value of augmentation, stipend, and surplice fees, was returned by the bishop in 1809, to the governors of Queen Anne's bounty, as amounting to only 47*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.* The vicar is now regularly instituted, but it does not appear that any institution was made before the time of Bishop Dawes.

NAMES OF THE VICARS OF ST. JOHN'S.

1578	Rev. John Dowglas	1665	Rev. Thomas Bridge
1597	Thomas Symond	1674	Robert Bridge
1636	John Cory	1689	Lawrence Wood
1643	George Burches	1710	Charles Oulton
1650	John Pemberton	1742	Lawrence Adams
1658	Peter Leigh	1777	John Price
1662	Alexander Fetherstæ	1785	William Richardson.

The situation of St. John's church is without the walls, on the eastern side of the city, on a cliff of red rock, overhanging the banks of the Dee—a sight as picturesque as any which the neighbourhood of a city could present, if the imagination of the observer may be allowed to clothe the opposite bank with the forests which certainly existed there long after the foundation of Ethelred, and to remove the modern obstructions which shut out from the prospect the hills of Wales and Delamere.

At the time of the dissolution, the remains of the collegiate church were included within an oblong inclosure, at the north-west angle of which was the gatehouse; lower down on the west side was the dean's house, and below this was a palace, which the bishop of Lichfield still retained near their ancient cathedral. On the north side were houses for the petty canons and vicars, and on the east side was the chapel of St. Anne, and nearer the river other houses for petty canons. The south side was formed by the cliffs; on two projections were small buildings called anchorite cells: and between these and the south door of the nave of the church was the chapel of St. James. The church was in the finest style of early Norman architecture, and was probably built shortly after the removal of the see from Chester to Coventry and the restoration of the collegiate establishment. It consisted originally, as may be gathered by collating an ancient plan with existing remains, of a nave and choir with side aisles, two transepts, and a central tower. The nave was separated from the side aisles by eight massy semicircular

arches on each side, resting on cylindrical columns, with bases and capitals. The diameter of the columns five feet six inches, and the ornaments of the capitals varied in a few instances. Over the remaining arches are two rows of galleries, with lancet-formed arches, those of the upper tier being the most acutely pointed. The arches from both are sprung from slender shafts with bases and capitals. The upper tier occasionally opens to small windows with circular heads, and from an imperfect row of arches in the south wall, the appearance of the galleries seems to have been copied in the exterior. At the east end of the nave are the four massy piers which supported the central towers. Their exterior appearance is broken on each side by a series of smaller shafts attached to the piers, with bases and capitals. On each side of the tower were the transepts, round which, as far as can be judged from existing remains, the upper row only of the galleries was continued.

East of the tower was the choir, divided from its side aisles by three arches on each side, with galleries over. The first couple of these arches is remaining. They were of the horse-shoe form, resting on cylindrical columns with capitals. The first row of galleries consisted of a series of low semicircular arches of the same span with the arches below, resting on short circular shafts. The upper row of galleries is here perfectly destroyed. At the east end of the choir was a fine semicircular arch, with ornamented capitals, yet remaining, but in the last stage of decay, under which was the entrance to a small chancel, consisting of five sides of an octagon. On each side of the chancel were added at a later period chapels, in a rich style of pointed gothic, in which some exquisite specimens of shrine work are yet remaining.

It remains to speak of the present appearance of these ruins, the greater part of which is occupied by the present parish church, which comprises four arches of the nave, and one of the choir, and as much of each transept as comes within the continuation of the lines formed by the outward walls of the side aisles of the nave and choir.

The architectural parts in these are tolerably perfect, but much disfigured by the necessary appendages of a parish church, the pews and galleries. East of the present chancel, consisting of the space under the former tower, and the first arch of the choir, are some beautiful ruins of the rest of the ancient choir, and the adjacent chapels, part of which has been converted into a dwelling-house.

West of the remains of the nave, forming the present body of the church, every trace of the other four arches has been obliterated, excepting some slight remains of the north aisle, which form the passage to a lofty detached bell-tower. It is obvious that much of the west end of the nave must have been destroyed before this tower could have been erected, which occupies the space of the second and third pillars of the north side of the original nave; the residue of this part was demolished in 1572 and 1574, by the falling of west and south sides of the tower. These sides, as already mentioned, were rebuilt in 1581, in a style similar to the rest. The tower is extremely lofty, and its sides are decorated with pointed windows, in a good style, figures placed in rich shrines, strings of quatrefoils, and rows of ornamental arches. No expence appears to have been spared in the building, and all the detail is good; yet there is something displeasing in the general appearance of the tower, and its disproportion to the venerable ruins which it stands at the side of. Near the foot of the tower, on the north side of the church, is an ancient porch, forming the principal entrance, in the sides of which are two lancet arches, the entrance being under an acutely pointed arch, the mouldings of which rest on a number of short shafts, which converge as they retire inwards.

The tower, about 150 feet high, and detached from the body of the church, contains an harmonious set of eight bells, six of them cast in 1710, and two in 1734. The approach to it is through the remains of the north aisle. The sides of the tower are decorated with a rich screen, and ornamented with figures placed in niches of exquisite workmanship. In the year 1813, the chancel

was thoroughly repaired; an entire new window was introduced over the communion, and the north and south transepts rebuilt and beautified at the sole expence of Earl Grosvenor, in whom, as already noticed, the advowson of the church is vested.

Dr. Cowper, in his *Il Penseroso*, says,—“In this church was an ancient rood, or image of wood, of such veneration, that in a deed March 27, 1311, confirmed by Walter Langton, the church was called *The church of the Holy Cross, and St. John*. Richard Hawarden, of Winwick, Lancashire, by will, dated March 28, A.D. 1503, left ‘*vis. viiijl. to whatever priest would go for him to the Holy Rood, at St. John’s, Chester.*’ ”

According to the census of this parish in 1821, the population consisted of 5098. The parish register, consisting of six folio volumes, in good preservation, and uniformly bound, commences in the year 1559; regular entries to 1641; from thence to 1652, very imperfect; but regular from 1686 to the present time.

MONUMENTS, &c.

In the chancel (north of the altar) are memorials of—Cornelius Hignett, of Ashton, gent. and Margaret his wife, daughter of William Hyde, of Frodsham, gent.; she died 28th Aug. 1735, aged 68, and he died 26th Feb. 1785, leaving issue Mary, wife of Thomas Aldersey, M.D. Catherine and Margaret.—Robert Bulkeley, son of Sir Richard Bulkeley, of Beaumaris, in Anglesey, Knight, who married Priscilla, daughter of Sir Henry Bunbury, of Stanney, co. Cest. Knt.: he died 27th Oct. 1670, aged 69 years; she died May 26, 1682, aged 67 years.—The Rev. Lawrence Wood, rector of St. Bridget’s, and minister of St. John’s, died July 13, 1710, aged 63.

On the south side, monuments of—Captain Giles Peacock, died 21st of April, 1720. The monument erected by Katharine his wife, daughter of Joshua Gerrard, born at Crewood-hall.—Benjamin Perryn, Esq. and Jane his wife; he died 12th Dec. 1761; she died 19th Jan. 1781; erected by their son, Sir Richard Perryn, Knt. a baron of the exchequer.—Katherine, fifth daughter of Robert Wynne, of Voylas, co. Denbigh, by Jane his wife, daughter of Edward Thelwall, of Plas Edward; she died Sept. 11, 1685.—Hannah, daughter and heiress of Charles Davies, co. Montgomery, wife of

Caldecot Aldersey, of Aldersey, co. Cest. gent. died Feb. 5, 1718, aged 24.
—**Sidney**, daughter of John Lee, of Darnhall, Esq. died 16th Jan. 1788, aged 61.

In an inclosed cemetery, on the south side of the chancel, a mural tablet, with a bust of the deceased, under which:—“*In hoc sacello cineres optime matris (cujus memorium vivens moriensq; summo honore prosecutus est) suos etiam requiescere voluit, Cecilius Warburton, arm. Georgii Warburton, de Arley in comitatu Cestrensi baronetti, et Dianæ, uxoris ejus, natu minimus. Egregias illidotes natura concessit, quas commendavit simul et ostendit eximia vultus, elegantia et decor. Erat ille vita sincerus, moribus comis, et quanquam fracta et pene deplorata valedutine annos plus viginti conflictatus est, constans, facilis, placidus: quibuscunque innotuit, præcipue amicis, quos omnibus vitæ officiis sibi devinxerat, charus vixit desideratus oblit 2ndo dis Maii, anno dom. 1728-9, ætat 63.*”

Near this another monument, consisting of an altar tomb, over which is a figure of a skeleton standing under the arms of Warburton, holding a scroll, inscribed—“*M.S. of Diana Warburton, wife and relict of Sir George Warburton, of Arley, in Cheshire bart. who survived her husband 17 years, in an unmarried state, with true mourning, fasting, and prayers. She was daughter of Sir Edward Bishop, of Parham, in Sussex, Knight and Baronet, and in her minoritie had had a virtuous and severe education, so as she became a great exemplar of all christian graces and virtues, and adorned every relation she stood in. She was a loving and loyal consort, a tender and indulgent parent, a compassionate mistress to her servants, a most accomplished friend, cheerful in her family, obliging to strangers, a daily almoner to the poor, fervent and composed in her devotion, both in public and in private, a patron to the clergy, and a generous benefactor to the church, and all places of her abode. She was of a quicke and piercing understanding, of a deep apprehension and discerning judgment, of great evenesse of mind and calmness of spirit in all events; aspiring after things only solid, improving, and rational; just in her actions, candid in all her censures, ready to forgive injuries, and never prone to doe any; delighted to see good in others, commended and encouraged it in all; her religion was not a bare shew or empty noise, but solid, substantial, even, and uniform; humble and patient in her sickness, and in the midst of pain without murmuring and despondency submitted herself to God, and with great constancy of mind and cheerfulness of spirit, resigned her life to him in one continued act of devout prayers and praises, of heavenly meditations and discoursings suitable to the entertainment of a departing soul, on the 13th of March, anno domini 1693.*”

Near to this are also memorials to three daughters of Sir George Warburton.

In the south aisle of the chancel, a mural monument, inscribed—“*Near to this place are interred the remains of William Falconer, Esq. barrister at law, and for some years recorder of this city, who by his abilities and integrity in that station, and by his virtues in private life, acquired the respect and gratitude of his fellow-citizens, and the esteem and affection of his friends. He departed this life June 2, 1764, aged 65 years.—In the same grave are deposited the remains of Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Randle Wilbraham, of Townsend, in this county, Esq. who, resembling her husband, in the practice of every christian and social duty, deservedly gained the regard of all who*

knew her ; she died June 27, 1782, aged 79 years. Here also repose the bodies of five of their children."

Near this a tablet to the son of the above, Thomas Falconer, (the editor of the Oxford edition of Strabo) with a Latin inscription : he died the 4th September, 1792, aged 56 years.

Near the first of these monuments, a tablet in memory of Robert Barker, M.D. fellow of the college of physicians, and physician to the infirmary of Chester, died 19th July, 1808, aged 90, buried at St. Asaph.

In the north chancel is a figure of a knight in a coat of mail and surcoat, cross-legged, dug up in the church-yard, and by it a slab, on which is a cross with a sword on the right hand ; on the side is inscribed, " Hic jacet Johannes le Serjaun."

Among other memorials in the church, are the following,—with the time of decease :—

Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Bellot, 1731.—Eliz. Wilbram, daughter of Sir Thomas Bellot, 1737.—Mary Bellot, daughter of the before-named, 1747.—John and Richard, sons of Dr. Pennington, 1687.—Dr. Allen Pennington, 1686 ; Anne, his wife, 1728.—Anne Maria, daughter of Captain Thomas Pennington, 1715.—Ruth Pennington, wife of Captain Thomas Pennington, 1715.—Elizabeth, wife of John Philpot, gent. 1752.—John Philpot, Esq. 1764.—Mary, wife of Nicholas Ashton, Esq. and daughter of J. Philpot, Esq. 1777.—Rev. Lawrence Adams, vicar of St. John's, 1777.—Rev. C. Oulton, vicar of St. John's, 1741.—Hon. John Grey, 1802.—Anne Christiana Farrel, 1764.—Wm. Farrel, of Broxton, Esq. 1775.—Frances, wife of Col. Bonner, of Chester, 1813.—Jane, daughter of Thomas Wilcock, wife of Richard Broster, alderman, 1660.—Humphrey Philips, of Chester, alderman, 1662.—Thomas Gamul, son and heir of William Gamul, mayor, 1637.—John Maddock, mayor, 1680.—John, son of Humphrey Philips, alderman, 1665.—Thomas Davenport, barber surgeon, younger son of Ralph Davenport, gent. of Low Cross, Cheshire.—R. Whitehead, mayor, 1624.—William Wilson, mayor, 1679.—Randle Oulton, mayor, 1682.—Thomas Byrd, mayor, 1644.—Dutton Bunbury, seventh son of Sir H. Bunbury, of Stanney, knt. 1652.—William Bristow, sheriff of Chester, 1679.

In the body of the church, near to the west end, is a plain flag, which simply marks the place of burial of the late Alderman William Seller, who died April 6, 1823, aged 64 years. Mr. Seller served the office of mayor in 1820-21. He is interred in the family vault beneath.

[ADDITIONAL PARTICULARS.]

In the church are four galleries ; that upon the north side is a private one, and was built in 1726, under a faculty obtained for the purpose. The seats are attached to the Barrs-house, belonging to the Egerton's of Oulton ; colonel Barnston's ; the house in Newgate-street, occupied by lady Farmer, the property of the Kenrick's ; and Mr. Freeman's, in St. John-street. That at the west end of the church was begun in 1677, and finished in 1679, built for public accommodation, and remains a free gallery.* The gallery upon the south side was built by the parishioners in 1741, under a faculty. After the liquidation of the expence of erection, the rents were appropriated *towards* the payment of the interest of certain legacies (of which mention will be made hereafter) which had been applied to the use of the parish ; the remainder for the minister, as provided by the faculty. By a more recent regulation, the *whole* of the interest of these legacies is paid out of these rents. The modern gothic gallery on the north side of the chancel was erected by Earl Grosvenor for the use of the children educated at his public school.

The fourteen pannel tablets which are hung in various parts of the church, bearing the arms of the deceased to whose memory they are placed, were painted by either one or other of the Randal Holmes. The small shields placed in the wall on the north end of the communion, formerly formed part of the monument of the family of *Cotes*, in whom the rectory was vested, were also painted by one of the same artists, of heraldic fame.

* When removing a part of the ceiling under this gallery, in 1828, for the purpose of fixing up a stove chimney, the inscription mentioned in page 71, vol. ii. was discovered, painted in black letters upon the wall immediately beneath the west window. It is probable that upon this being hid by the erection of the gallery, the copy now upon a tablet in the church was painted. The last line should be read thus :—"With the help of bishop *Welfrice* and good *Excellion*."

The church-yard is the most extensive in the city, and the beautiful situation of that part of it which bounds the south side of the church causes it to be frequently visited, not only by those whose relatives are interred there, but by others, who wish to combine the contemplation of a fine prospect with their meditations amongst the tombs. It is to be regretted, however, that this church-yard is so much exposed, and that the various roads which pass through it place this sanctuary of the dead almost upon a level with the public highway. This is the more to be lamented, when the number of edifices in its immediate vicinity is considered, and which may prevent such an alteration as would render the church-yard of St. John what it and all others ought to be. And here it is impossible to withhold a comparison between the desecrated state of our church-yards in general, and the reverential care and attention which are paid to those modern receptacles of the departed—the public cemeteries—which are now being established in large towns.

Provision was made against the exposure of this church-yard nearly a century and a half ago.* Since that period, however, the various residences just mentioned have been erected in its vicinity, and from the singular circumstance of the herbage being vested in a party separate from the impropriator or the parish, these roads have been made by the mere transfer of so much of the herbage as the length and breadth of them. As for instance, Sir Robert Cunliffe, in 1775, paid to the late Mr. Orange, the then owner of it, six guineas, for the herbage,

* The following extract from a decree of the chancellor of the diocese, signed by *Gutliel Wilson*, *Reg. Dep.* dated 15th August, 1683, and addressed to *John Thomason* and *Joseph Maddock*, churchwardens of St. John's, will prove that there were, in that day, no such roads or right of roads existing:—"It is judiceally soe decreed, that you the present churchwardens there shall cause sufficient locks to be put on, and the gate to be constantly locked, except upon such occasions as they ought to be open; and if any person or persons whatsoever doe hinder or offer to hinder you in the doeing thereof, or shall knock off or break, or cause to be knock'd or taken off and broken any one of them, you are to present the names of all such persons to the s'd chancellor; that thereupon they may be proceeded against and punished according to law."

which he lost by the road leading to Dee-side, now St. John's-place; preferring to pay that sum, and have the present road from the *lych-gates* to his house (that at present occupied by prebendary Wrangham, archdeacon of the East Riding of Yorkshire) rather than continue the original one from the Groves beneath an arch, and up a flight of steps now to be seen. The road crossing in the other direction, and leading to the house of the Misses Massey, was, I am informed, made by, or with the approbation of the owner of the herbage, who built this house about the year 1763; but as he could not convey the soil, the latter, like that of the others, would be available for the uses of the parish, were the whole of the other parts of the church-yard occupied by the dead. The road leading from the north-east gate to the Groves is the only ancient one; but that, according to evidence taken in 1795, was formerly but a foot-path: it being recorded in the evidence just mentioned, that eighty years ago, the entrance into the church-yard from Love-street was by a *turn-stile*. When or from what cause the herbage became a separate property, is not known; but the parishioners, finding the inconvenience of its being so, resolved to purchase what was left of it, which was effected in January, 1794.

Within the interesting ruins adjoining this church, is a genteel house called the *Priory*, raised by Sir Robert Cotton, from a small cottage which stood upon this spot about the middle of the last century. The gothic arch and niche on each side of it forming the entrance from the north into this apparently ancient dwelling, were brought from the Nun's Gardens, where they had previously stood many centuries, as a part of the old Friary. It has been erroneously supposed that they formed a part of the ruins surrounding this house. Earl Grosvenor took up his residence here during his mayoralty in 1807-8.

St. Peter's Church.

PARISH AND CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

There is a tradition that this church was dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, and that it was erected when the patrons of the monastery, which occupied the site of the cathedral, were changed from the saints before-mentioned, to the Holy Trinity. This tradition has been given by Webb, in his description of Chester, in the following terms :

“It appeareth that the christian faith and baptism came into Chester in Lucius's time, a king of the Britons, which is within less than one hundred and forty years

of the sufferings of our saviour Christ, and that then a church was here built, and at that time called by the name of St. Peter and Paul ; and this church, saith Bradshaw, in the life of St. Werburgh, lib. 2. cap. 3. was the mother church and burial place to all Chester, and seven miles about Chester, and so continued for the space of 300 years and more. But then after, as appeareth in the same author, Elfleda, that noble lady, daughter to king Alured, sister to king Edward, senior, wife to Ethelred, king of the Mercians, altered the name of this church from Peter and Paul, to Trinity and St. Oswald, and this alteration was by the general consent of the duke and spirituality, yet so as no loss should be either to the memory of those patrons (so they called the saints of whom churches in their foundations were appointed to receive their names) or to the upholding of devotion ; for *another church was soon built in the midst of the city, called by the same name of Peter and Paul, WHICH NOW IS CALLED ST. PETER'S ONLY : hear this in his verse :—*

“ And the old church of Peter and Paul,
By a general consent of the spirituality,
With the help of the duke most principal,
Was translated to the midst of the said city,
Where a parish church was edified truly,
In the honour of the apostles twain,
Which shall for ever by grace divine remain.”

Whether the above tradition be correct or otherwise, yet there is good authority to establish the high antiquity of this church.* In 1081 the church was given by

* At the period of the conquest, it bore its *present* name, as appears from the following curious entry in Domesday, of which a translation is also subjoined :—

“ Terra in qua est templum sancti Petri, quam Robertus de Rodeland clamabat at Teinland (sicut diracion comitatus) nunquam pertinuit ad manerium extra civitatem, sed ad burgum pertinet, et semper fuit in consuetudine regis et comitis, sicut aliorum burgensium.”

“ The ground on which is the church of St. Peter, which Robert de Rodeland claims as Thaneland (as the court of the earl proves) never belonged to the manor without the city, but it belongs to the borough, and also was always subject to the payment of customary rent to the king and earl as (the land) of other burgesses.”

Robert de Rodelent, among other donations, to the abbey of St. Ebrulf, of Utica in Normandy;* the monks of which, after several intermediate arrangements, finally abandoned their claim, and surrendered the rectory to the abbey of St. Werburgh. St. Peter's is omitted in the ecclesiastical taxation in 1291.

After the dissolution, the patronage was given by charter to the dean and chapter. In the time of bishop Bridgeman it was vested in the crown; at present the minister is licensed as a perpetual curate, and the patronage belongs to the bishop. The living is now considered only an augmented curacy. The yearly value of augmentation, rent charge, legacies, pews, and surplice fees, was stated to be 92*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* in the returns to the governors of Queen Anne's bounty, made by the bishop of Chester.

The church stands in the north-west angle of the four principal streets. The interior consists of a nave with side aisles, divided from each other by three pointed arches, and a third side aisle on each side, which appears to have been added to the others. The span of the arches, and the height of the building, are very disproportionate to the present size of the interior, and give it the appearance of being the fragment of a larger structure. The belfrey tower is at the west end of the original middle aisle. The wood-cut standing at the head of this article is a fac-simile of a drawing by one of the Randal Holmes (Harl. MSS. 2073), taken after the siege of Chester, and exhibits the spire, built in 1580, which was taken down about 1780. On the steps is represented the pedestal of the ancient high cross,† and on the right the old Pentice,

* In the charter of confirmation of all the lands given unto the abbey of Utica by many noblemen in England, made by William the conqueror anno 1081; we read among other things thus :—*Robertus verò de Rodelento, præfato Hugone Cestrensi comite domino suo concedente dedit sancto Ebrulfo chercheblam cum duabus ecclesiis; unam scilicet quæ in ipsâ villâ est, et aliam præpè illum manerium in insulâ maris: et ecclesiam Sancti Petri apostoli et quicquid ad eam pertinebat, in Cestrensi urbe.*

† See vol. i. page 406.

corresponding precisely with the description given by Smith in the Vale Royal.* Before the taking down of the old Pentice, in 1803, the flight of steps leading to the entrance of the church were immediately in front of the door, and the parsonage-house over them; but, when the alteration took place, they were turned to the side of the church.

In 1787, the south side of the church was re-cased with stone; in 1813, the steeple also was recased, and a new clock placed in it. The entire body of the church was new pewed in 1814-15. In the steeple are eight bells, of which six are a peal, cast in 1709; on the treble are cast these words, "When you ring, I'll sing." The Pentice bell was cast as early as 1589, and was originally used for the purpose of summoning the magistrates; it is now rung on corporate court days only. In the beginning of the year 1818, Sunday evening lectures were established in this church, under the patronage of Bishop Law, where divine service is regularly performed by a clergyman, whose stipend, with all attendant expences, are defrayed by annual subscriptions, and collections made quarterly in the church. In the month of October in the same year, the church was first lighted with gas.

VICARS OF ST. PETER'S.

<i>Presented.</i>	<i>Vicars.</i>
1300 Robertus de Macclesfield.	
1300 Thomas Abbesbury.	
1310 Guido de Newton.	
1313 Rogerus de Cheyne.	

<i>Presented.</i>	<i>Vicars.</i>
1320 D'nus Jo. de Marthall.	
1349 Robertus de Berrington.	
1350 Ricardus de Bredon.	
1378 Johannes de Halghton.	

* The sketch of this church, as well as of the five that follow, are copied from the great work of Mr. Ormerod. They are introduced for the purpose of shewing the difference between those structures at the time they were taken, from what they are at the present day. The churches of St. Oswald's, St. John's, and St. Mary's, retain the external form they have had from a distant period, and I have met with no sketches of them in any other. In a MS. volume, part of the collections of the late Rev. Thomas Crane, I observe, however, the following note in reference to St. John's.—"I have seen a drawing of St. John's church, in its perfect state; it was originally built in the form of a cross. T. C."

Presented. *Vicars.*
 1405 Johannes de Crissenale.
 Henricus Hey.
 1443 Rogerus Asser.
 1464 Jacobus Stanley.
 1466 Thomas Bolton.
 Robert Becausan.
 1504 John Nicholson.

Presented. *Vicars.*
 1511 Thomas Baxter.
 William Orton.
 1570 Edward Rawlins.
 1573 William Dovington.
 1591 William Chiswick.
 1624 William Case, M.A.
 1627 James Rutherford, M.A.

It was my intention to have given the names of the ministers of this church, from the year 1627, with the time of their appointment, but I have not been able to collect the information with accuracy. The first nomination that can be found in the registry office, of perpetual curates to St. Peter's church, is that of the Rev. Peter Newton, but it is without date; it is presented by the churchwardens and parishioners to Nicholas, the then bishop of Chester, on the death of the Rev. William Thompson, the late minister. There is also a stipendiary curate's nomination, dated 1731, by the Rev. Robert Fogg, perpetual curate thereof, but it does not appear when the said Robert Fogg was licensed. On the 22nd September, 1771, the Rev. John Baldwin, nominated his son John Baldwin to the stipendiary curacy; but it does not appear when Mr. B. sen. was licensed. On the 10th February, 1776, the said John Baldwin, sen. resigned his curacy, and on the 20th day of February, in the same year, the Rev. Rigby Baldwin was licensed thereto. On the 14th of May, 1794, the said Rigby Baldwin (then called Rigbye Rigbye) resigned, and on the 28th May, in the same year, the Rev. John Baldwin was licensed thereto. The Rev. John Halton (the present incumbent) was licensed to the said perpetual curacy on the 24th July, 1815.

Population of this parish according to the last census, 1016.—The registers of this parish commence, baptisms, in 1588; marriages and burials, in 1559. They consist of four folio volumes, in general of fair legible writing on parchment, and in excellent condition, having been lately uniformly rebound in rough calf, and their contents lettered on the back of each. The chasms in the registers

are as follow :—*Baptisms*, from 1598 to 1608.—*Marriages*, from 1595 to 1607; from 1619 to 1626; from 1743 to 1754.—*Burials*, from 1596 to 1607; from 1609 to 1616.

MONUMENTS IN ST. PETER'S CHURCH.

On a large mural monument fixed in the gallery, against the north wall : —“ This marble, conjugal affection and final piety have erected to the memory of Henry Bennet, esq. a citizen who did honour to this city; a merchant who improved and extended its commerce, a magistrate who ruled it with dignity and justice; a lover of his country, a friend to mankind, and of his God a servant zealous with knowledge. His life was such continued happiness to those whom God and nature taught him most to love, that his death, which happened on the 26th of Nov. 1747, in the 56th year of his age, became their greatest and most lasting affection.”

On a tablet behind the pulpit :—“ Quisquis hæc scias esse Thomam Cowper. . . . civem Cestrensem, qui dum vixit, vixit bonus civis, paterfamilias frugi, amicis utilis, cognatis benignus, simul temperans, justus, religiosus, misericors, quodque scire etiam te volo, duobus quos reliquit filiis et vivus et moriens optime prospexit e quibus natu major, hoc quod vides marmor, pietatis ergo, extrui curavit. Oblit 27^o die Novembris, anno MDCXCV. ætatis suæ 71^o.” Over it are the arms of Cowper, of Overlegh, and underneath, the same with three quarterings. Underneath these arms :—“ Thomæ cineribus miscentur Elizabethæ, conjugis charissimæ, viduæ mætissimæ Johannis Baskerville de Withington arm. filia, et Britonum et Normannorum principibus oriundæ. Pia benefica vixit, bonis flebilis occidit, x Dec. an. Christi 1716, ætat. 72^o. W. C. nepos, arm. hoc posuit.”

Close to this monument is a wooden tablet, inscribed :—“ Here lyeth the bodyes of Thomas Cowper of ys citty, esquier, alderman and justice of peace, maior 1641; he died 19th day of July, 1671, aged 76 years; and alsoe of Catherine his wife, daughter of Thomas Throppe of the saide citty of Chester, alderman and justice of peace. She died 29th May, 1672, aged 72 years. They had yssue five son'es and two daughters, of which three sons and one daughter survived them.”

Attached to the adjoining pillar, is the memorial of Humphrey Page, gent. alderman, who died April 31, 1711, aged 54, leaving issue two sons and five daughters.

On the other side of the same column, a marble monument, inscribed : —“ Near unto this place lieth the body of Edward Bradshaw, esquire, who by his first wife Susanna, daughter and heir of Christopher Bleas, of this city, alderman, had twelve children, and by his second wife Mary, the relict of Mr. Christopher Love, had seven children: he was exemplary for his piety and charity when living, and departed this life the 31st of October, 1671, in the 67th year of his age, leaving five of his children yet alive, to

continue whose memory, his son and heir, Sir James Bradshaw, of Kirby, in the east rideing of the county of York, has erect this monument."

Against the next pillar, in the middle of the church, a marble monument inscribed :—" On the north-west side of this pillar lies the body of Mrs. Ursula Bradshaw, youngest daughter of Sir James Bradshaw, kt. and of his lady, who was sole daughter and heir of Edward Ellerker, of Kirby, in the county of York, esq. She died at Chester, 18th September, 1731, ætat. 43, and desiring to be buried near her grandfather, her affectionate brother, Ellerker Bradshaw, esq. in memory of her many virtues, erected this monument."

Against the same pillar is a memorial of Mary, daughter and co-heiress of Randle Leech, merchant, sheriff of Chester, and late wife of Robert Ince, draper, who died July 27, 1613, leaving five sons and one daughter.

Near this are memorials of Thomas Tylston, M.D. died Jan. 9, 1746, and John Tylston, M.D. his son, who died June 22, 1760.

In a vault on the south side of the communion table, were interred in 1802, the remains of the Rev. William Massey, of St. John's church-yard ; and in 1804, those of Elizabeth, his relict. Also four children who died in their infancy.

Against the east wall, on the north side of the altar, is a monument, decorated with a bust of the deceased, with an inscription as follows :—" Prætor fuit anno verbi incarnati MDLXXXVIII. Gulielmo Wall, honestis penatibus Helsbeii, Frodshamiæ, nato hujus urbis olim prætori, ordinisq ; senatorii, viro gravi et moribus suavissimis, optimorum comiti, et omnibus comi : in se potius quam sui parco, in publicum liberali, in pauperis prodigo, virtutum ejus memor memoriæq. cultor posuit."

Affixed to the north side of the church is a handsome monument of white and grey marble, to the memory of George Henry Johnson, with the following elegant Latin inscription, by Dr. Butler, of Shrewsbury :—" H. S. E.—Georgius Henricus Josephi F. Johnson, qui benignam ingenii venam a naturâ sibi concessam, optimis studiis excolebat, in literis Græcis atque Latinis plurimum profecerat, neque erat in Geometria rudis, nihil erat in eo fictam, aut simulatum, nihil inconcinnum, aut lene, sed honesta omnia, sed decora, sed proba, itaque patri pietate, præceptoribus diligentia, condiscipulis morum facilitate, atque innocentia, cæteris omnibus comitate atque modestiâ se commendavit, sed his animi virtutibus vires corporis non respondebant, vixit annis xvi. mensibus x. diebus ix. decessit in regia schola Salopiensi, VIII. id. Nov. A.S. MDCCCXVIII. Filio optimo desideratissimo pater superstes. H.M.P.C.

[This youth is interred in a vault under the monument ; where his father, Joseph Johnson, and his grandfather, John Johnson, wine merchants, and several other members of the same family, are also interred.]

Trinity Church.

THE HOLY AND UNDIVIDED TRINITY.

The advowson of the rectory of Trinity was originally an appendage of the barony of Montalt, and passed with that barony, successively, to the crown, the earls of Salisbury, and the Stanleys of Lathom, and continuing vested in the family last-mentioned, after their loss of the barony of Montalt, is now the property of their representative, the earl of Derby. The earliest notice* of it which

* The following note, in reference to this church, occurs in the Crane MS. collections, but on what authority the information rests, I know not :—
“The north chancel, commonly called St. Patric’s ile, is said to have been built by Mankmen, living in Lower-Jane.”

has occurred, is in a charter relating to Rostherne church anterior to 1188, which is witnessed among others by William de Montalt, and “Waltero ecclesiæ sancta Trinitatis presbytero.”

Trinity church is situated on the north side of Watergate-street, adjoining the custom-house; it is chiefly built of the red sand stone of the city;* the north wall of the north aisle is cased with brick. In the early part of the

* Of this stone our churches, and all the old public buildings in the city were constructed; most, if not all of it being probably dug from an ancient quarry, near the Northgate, where the canal now runs. The flagging for the path-way round the walls is of this material; where may be frequently seen, on the flags that have been a good deal worn, a hard black substance, resembling iron-stone, rising above the surface, and sometimes branching into fantastic shapes. A very short time since, a gentleman of this city observed one of these flags on the western side of our walls, in which this hard substance had branched out into the form of a *thistle*, of which it had an exact resemblance. He had the curiosity to have it taken up, and another placed in its room; and on its being submitted to a scientific and eminent mineralogist, he delivered the following opinion:—“The stone is a fine specimen of the new red sand stone, a formation which extends from the south-east of Devonshire to the Bristol channel; and from the banks of the Severn through the heart of England, terminating in the valley of the river Tees, in the plain between Yorkshire and Durham. It presents exactly the same character in the plain of Carlisle, and in the southern part of Dumfriesshire. It very rarely contains organic remains, and I do not believe that the black *Dentritic* impression is organic. I am, however, not able to decide positively whether it is or not. Between the slabs of this kind of red stone, there is often a coating of black oxyd of iron. This oxyd, from interrupted chrysalization, forms beautiful dentritic markings, of which this is a very fine specimen.”—It may be well to observe that the learned were not aware, as appears from the above note, that this description of stone had been noticed in this district. This may give rise to an interesting inquiry on this subject amongst the men of science in this city.—Within the last twenty years, the *Yorkshire flags* have been very generally introduced into the city, and with these the walking path of the walls are now repaired. The durability of this stone, in comparison with that of the Chester material, in connection with the cheapness and facility of conveyance by inland navigation, will in all probability very soon command a preference to any other, at least for general purposes. A stranger walking the streets of Chester would conclude, that the article of flags is very scarce in the city, as a very small portion of it can boast of a walking path of these materials. If our police commissioners should ever be rich enough, they would confer a gratifying boon on the citizens, and especially on a groupe of gouty invalids, by taking up the sharp-stoned pavement on the side walks, and providing a more easy accommodation for *tender feet*.

17th century, the church was ornamented with a beautiful spire, a representation of which is given above, from a drawing of one of the Randal Holmes. From its exposed situation, however, and the perishable quality of the stone, it required frequent reparation; and in addition to these causes of natural decay, the upper part suffered much in 1769 and 1770, from severe storms; it is stated to have been thrice rebuilt within eight years.

Early in the year 1811, some serious apprehensions were entertained for the safety of the spire, which had probably been rendered more sensitive, from the fatal accident which had a little before happened to St. Nicholas's spire at Liverpool, by which a great number of people lost their lives. The late Thomas Harrison, Esq. was therefore employed to survey it, and in consequence of his report,* it was taken down without the least accident.

* I cannot deny myself the gratification of giving the whole of this report, not only on account of its application to this structure, but because of the scientific observations it contains by this distinguished architect, on all similar edifices:—"Having attentively examined the inside of the spire, to within a few yards of the top, and viewed it without from different situations most convenient for the purpose, there appears a material defect in its original construction; the upright or perpendicular joints of the stones or ashlar, not being tyed in a workman-like manner, or alternately crossing over each other sufficiently to bind the different courses properly together, which is necessary in all kinds of masonry, but more especially in a spire. This defect has occasioned the joints to open more than they otherwise would have done, and in time would be the principal cause of the destruction of the spire, which would be hastened by the tender and perishable nature of the stone of which it is built, it being already, in several parts, in a state of considerable decay. The mortar, in a number of the joints, has perished, or been worked out by the vibration of the spire, and they are therefore now so open, that the superincumbent weight rests only upon part of the surface of many of the horizontal joints. The upper part of the spire, which was rebuilt some years since, appears, within, to have been very carelessly and improperly executed; the joints, in general, having been left open, and others only made up with small and very insufficient stones. From an observation made with a plum-line, the upper part of the spire appears to be about six inches out of perpendicular, leaning towards the south-west. The lower part of the spire, and about the sound-holes, appear to have been built with a coarser and more perishable stone than that which has been generally used above; the joints and faces of the stone being so much decayed, that, it is supposed, two or three inches from the surface of several of them have perished and fallen off in this part, which has not been originally more than ten inches in thickness. The construction

The stones which formed the summit of the spire, called the *Rose*, were placed by Dr. Thackeray, in the infirmary garden, as a pedestal for a basaltic column, from the Giant's Causeway.* The east end and south side of this church, with the pillars and arches, being in a ruinous

of the angles adjoining to the sound-holes is improper, from being done with stone of too small dimensions, insufficiently bound or tyed, and therefore gives a weakness to this part; which, with the present decayed state of the stone in several of them, constitutes the greatest defect and danger of the spire. All buildings must have a period of decay and failure, according to their situation, construction, and the quality of the materials of which they are built: and although it may be possible with great care and trouble, but perhaps with some danger, to repair this spire, so that it might stand a number of years, yet I consider, that, from its original defects, and present state of decay, no repairs will render it so strong or secure, as erections of this kind ought to be. All spires being more or less in danger from their great altitude, compared with the size of their bases, and the stone, to prevent loading the towers too much, necessarily thin; and as they are exposed to all vicissitudes of weather, they ought always to be judiciously constructed of stone the least liable to decay, and the masonry well executed. In a spire like this, where these essential requisites have not been observed, and where the stone is, in several parts, from age to age, in a considerable and progressive state of decay; any reparation might give an appearance of safety, without effectually removing real danger. I am, therefore, after due consideration, of opinion, that the most advisable measure would be, as soon as convenient, to take it down entirely.

* This basaltic column has a peculiar claim upon the attention of the curious. A pentagon joint, as seen in the infirmary garden, and taken from one of the most perfect pillars, has five plain, and twelve curve surfaces; they have their insides sloped away in an hyperbolic curve, and the grooves in the lower part of each joint adapted to receive these, with similar curvature, added to the former, make twice as many curve surfaces as the figure has angles. The most remarkable property of Basaltes, is its figure being never found in strata like other marbles, but always standing up in the form of regular angular columns, composed of a number of joints, one placed upon and nicely fitted to another, some square, others pentagonal, hexagonal, heptagonal, or octagonal, as if formed by the hands of a skilful workman. The noblest store in the world seems to be that called Giant's Causeway in Ireland, and Staffa, one of the western isles of Scotland. In Ireland the Basaltes rises far up the country, runs into the sea, crosses at the bottom, and rises again on the opposite land. In Staffa the whole end of the island is supported by natural ranges of pillars, mostly above fifty feet high, standing in natural colonades, according as the bays and points of land have formed themselves, upon a firm basis of solid unformed rocks. At Fairhead (north of Ireland) the pillars are of a gigantic magnitude, sometimes exceeding five feet in breadth, and one hundred in length."

state, were rebuilt from the foundation in 1679. In 1771, the church-yard was enlarged from land ceded by the rector to the parish, for which it was to pay him and his successors 4*l.* a year for ever. In 1774, the church was enlarged out of the church-yard, 50 feet in length from St. Patrick's aisle, and 28 feet in width from south to north, at an expence exceeding 500*l.* In 1734, it was decreed, that the four bells, being cracked and broken, should be re-cast, and two new ones added to the peal; in 1736, the six new bells, cast by Rudhall, of Gloucester, were placed in the steeple. The burying ground adjoining the church, having been long extremely crowded with bodies, and inadequate to the use of the parish, a fresh piece of ground, north of the Linen-hall, and east of the city jail was purchased in 1809, and consecrated Sept. 22, 1810; the total expence, including chapel, railing, &c. was about 1000*l.* The interior of this church is kept in remarkably good order, every part of it presenting an appearance of beauty and cleanliness. There are two good galleries, one of them erected so late as the year 1826, a considerable portion of which is appropriated to the children of the parochial sabbath school. Within this parish is situated the Roodeye, where the city races are annually held; it is tithe free, but the parish rector is allowed the pasturage of one horse. Certified value of the living 33*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.* Present rector, the Rev. F. Ayckbowm.

By the census of 1821, the parish contains 3036 inhabitants. The registers, written on parchment, contained in four volumes bound in calf, and in good condition, commence in the year 1656; and are continued to the present time, with but little interruption.

RECTORS OF TRINITY.

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Rectors.</i>
1188	Walterus, presbyter.
	Alexander le Bell.

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Rectors.</i>
1320	Robertus de Waterford.
1349	Johannes de Preston.

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Rectors.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Rectors.</i>
1369	Ricardus de Penketh.	1553	Thomas Tadgyll.
1378	Johannes de Midelton.		John Blacon.
	Thomas Mynshull.	1580	Henry Berke.
1384	Johannes Erdiston.	1613	Samuel Hankinson.
1405	Will. de Newhalgh.	1615	Edmund Hopwood.
1463	Johannes Cross.		Christopher Sudell.
1468	Rogerus Cottingham.	1735	William Smith, A.B.
1481	Henricus Reynforth.	1766	William Smith, D.D.
1505	Richard Smith.	1780	James Stones.
1507	Robert Cawley.	1786	Thomas Maddock, A.B.
1512	Thomas Powell.	1806	Thomas Maddock, A.M.
	Thomas Bradshaw.	1825	Frederick Ayckbowm.
1551	Ralph Stopford.		

The patronage of this church first came into the family of the Earl of Derby in the year 1405.

MONUMENTS IN TRINITY CHURCH.

At the end of the south aisle, are the monuments of Henry and Edward Gee, over which is the following inscription :—

“ Dame Elizabeth heare interred is,
That ladie was of late
To Calverley, kt. but first espoused
To Henry Gee, her mate,
Who ruled heare a patron rare
As cittie well can shewe,
Thus she in worship run her race,
And still in vertue grewe.”

Near to the above is a large marble monument, in memory of John Mainwaring, of Wrenbury, of the Baddiley family, and steward to Lord Weymouth. Obiit March 2, 1729, aged 84.

Adjacent, a brass plate, in memory of Peter Drinkwater, alderman, (Obiit July 18, 1631) and Sarah his wife (Obiit January 5, 1646.)

Opposite these is a very large monument, with a long and pompous memorial of William Allen, merchant, and alderman of Chester, mayor 1697, died July 1708, aged 67.

Near the east door, adjoining the monument of the Allens, was formerly an ancient tomb of the Whitmores, with an effigy in mail, of white marble, with the family arms on the shield; it is mentioned in King's Vale Royal, p. 84, but even at that time (1620) the monumental inscription was utterly extinguished. The original inscription was as follows :—“ Hic jacet Johannes de Whitmore, obiit 3 kal. Octob. MCCCLXXIV.” He was mayor of

Chester, in 1372.—This figure was removed in consequence of some alterations, and deposited in a vault under the seat now occupied by Dr. Thackeray.

At the altar, a tablet—"Here lyeth the bodyes of Martha, fourth daughter of Philip Chetwood, of Oakley, by Esther his wife, daughter to William Tuchett, of Whitley, who died 17th of May, 1681, aged 41 years; and Eleanor, second daughter of the said Philip Chetwood. She died 16th March, 1682, aged 12 years."

Above this:—"Here lieth interred the remains of Martha Meredith, spinster, sister of Sir William Meredith, of Henbury, in this county, bart. who died in this city on the 8th day of October, 1788, aged 64 years.

On the north side of the altar, a memorial of "Sir Herbert Whalley, knt. who was born at Ringmore, in Sussex, and died of a fever at Chester, May 6, 1689."

Near to this a marble tablet, inscribed:—"P.M.S. Thomæ Ravenscroft nuper de Pickhill, in agro Denbighensi, armigeri, ex antiqua Ravenscroft de Bretton in com. Flint, prosapiâ orti: Margaretæ uxoris ejus fidelissimæ, d'ni Thomæ Williams nuper de Vaynall, in comitatu Carnarvon, bar'ti filiæ: qui cum quadraginta annos sum'a cum felicitate amantissime convixerunt, et ad 84 ætatis annum respective proventi pientissimi obierunt, ille 18mo. die mensis Februarii, 1681, illa 23^o. Octobris, 1683: in quorum piam memoriam eorum filia moestissima et executrix Dorothea Ravenscroft, pie hoc monumentum posuit."

Under this, on a plain marble tablet:—"Near this place resteth in hope of a joyful resurrection to eternal life, the body of the Rev. James Stones, A.M. late rector of this parish. He died the 23rd day of May, in the year of our Lord 1786, aged 68.

On a brass plate fixed under the creed within the communion rails, is the following memorial to the memory of Matthew Henry, the celebrated Presbyterian divine, and his wife:—"Mortalitatis exuvias hic juxta deposuit Katharina Henry, filia unica Samuelis Hardware armigeri, Conjux admodum dilecta Matthæi Henry S.S. Evangelii ministri, quæ primo partu (filiolâ superstite) variolis extincta ad patriam migravit, 14^o die Februarii, 1688-9, anno ætat. 25. Posuit in lachrymis viduatus conjux.—Idem Matthæus Henry pietatis et ministerii officiis strenue perfunctus, per labores, S.S. litteris scrutandis et explicandis impensos confectum corpus huic dormitorio commisit 22^{ndo} die Junii, 1714, anno ætat. 52; susceptis ex Mariâ, Roberti Warburton, armigeri, filiâ, moerente jam vidua, unico filio et quinque filiabus superstitibus."

A memorial on the south side of the altar:—"At the foot of this pillar on the chancell side is interred the body of William Ince, late alderman and justice of the peace of the citey, was maior ano. 1662; he was one of the burjezes in parliament for this citey; he died the 27th of January, ano. 1678: had issue only by his second wife, Anne, daughter of Thomas Thropp, alderman and justice of the peace. She was interred in the same ano. 1644. Two sons survived their father, William the eldest, and Robert the fourth. William Ince, alderman and justice of peace of this citey, was maior ano. 1677.

Parnell, the poet (archdeacon of Clogher) was interred in this church, October 24th, 1718.

In other parts of the structure, there are memorials of—Thomas Par-
 tington, alderman, obiit February 24, 1716.—John Stringer, mayor 1714,
 died May 30, 1715, aged 52.—Robert Hincks, died March 12, 1779.—
 Margaret Hincks, died June 24, 1809, aged 38.—John Hincks, Nov. 25,
 1812, aged 43.—Elizabeth Hincks, Dec. 30, 1812.—William Wright,
 merchant, died Sept. 16, 1662, and Sarah, his widow, daughter of Richard
 Bird, alderman, May 20, 1689, aged 60.—John Buckley, Esq. died Aug. 6,
 1805, aged 45.—John Bennett, alderman, died Sept. 6, 1810, aged 81 ;
 Eleanor his wife, died August 27, 1793, aged 55 ; Edward, Daniel, and
 Thomas, their sons.—Elizabeth Hinde, daughter of Henry and Alice Hes-
 keth, died January 20, 1811, aged 60.—Henry Hesketh, Esq. died Fe-
 bruary 22, 1788, aged 73 ; Alice his wife, died February 16, 1784,
 aged 66.—Jane, daughter of Roger Steele, registrar of Bangor, wife of John
 Poole, sheriff of Chester, died Jan. 6, 1644 ; Anne, second wife of the same,
 daughter of Rowland Griffiths, of the county of Merioneth, died Sept. 5,
 1660,—Francis Skellern, mayor of Chester, 1689, died Oct. 14, 1708, aged 78.

On the right of the communion, is a neat white mable tablet, to the me-
 mory of the Rev. Thomas Maddock, rector of the parish, and of Northenden,
 and prebendary of the Cathedral ; he died 12th of February, 1825, and was
 interred in St. Mary's chapel, in the cathedral.

On the south wall, a handsome marble tablet, with the following memo-
 rials :—"To the memory of Mary, wife of Thomas Bradford, alderman of
 this city ; she died Nov. 29, 1820, aged 52.—Also the above Thomas Brad-
 ford ; died July 8, 1821, aged 57.—Also of Samuel Bradford, father of the
 above Thomas Bradford, who died the 31st of August, 1828, in his 95th
 year."

Near the above, a tablet—"Sacred to the memory and virtues of J. T.
 H. A. Dodd, who departed this life Oct. 29, 1824, aged 60 years. She was
 a humble, pious, and sincere christian. This tablet is gratefully inscribed by
 one of her affectionate pupils."

On the north wall—"John Bennett, alderman, died Sept. 6, 1811,
 aged 81. Also the body of John Bennett, son of the above, died Dec. 21,
 1819.—Also, Anne Bennett, the wife of Samuel Bennett, of the city of
 Chester, Esq. who died the 14th of April, 1828, aged 52."

On the west wall, a marble tablet—"Near this place lieth the body of
 Thomas Ball, Esq. of the kingdom of Ireland, who departed this life the 1st
 day of November, 1798, aged 71 years."

Over the vestry door, a tablet, inscribed :—"In a vault underneath the
 vestry-room, lieth the body of Thomas Porter, who died Sept. 28th, 1814,
 aged 33 years. And also of Anne Porter his wife, who died July 17th,
 1808.—And also of William Porter, brother of the above, who died Nov.
 13, 1806, aged 18 years.—Also the Rev. James Turner, M.A. died March
 March 2, 1822, aged 33.

In the aisles, on plain flag stones, are the following memorials :—Maria
 Hincks, relict of Robert Hincks, Esq. died 27th December, 1826, aged 97.
 —Also, Joseph Hincks, son of the above ; died Dec. 5, 1829, aged 69.—
 Sacred to the memory of William Hunter, late of Dee Cottage, Chester, who
 departed this life the 15th of November, 1826, aged 68 years.—John Mil-
 lington, who died 5th February, 1822, aged 80 years.

St. Martin's Church.

PARISH AND CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN'S.

This church, called St. Martin's of the Ash, is a neat small brick building with stone angles and finishings, and situated between the west end of Whitefriars and Cupping-street. The present building was erected in 1721; of which the following inscription, cut on a small stone, at the west end, is a memorial:—"This church being ruined, was new erected from the foundation, in the year 1721.—Charles Bingley, William Terry, C.W." Previous to which the church was of still smaller dimensions, and of a different form: the accompanying wood engraving is a sketch of the structure as it stood towards the close of the seventeenth century; the interior is without chancel or side aisles.

St. Martin's is a rectory in the gift of the bishop. In 1744, it was augmented by lands purchased with 400*l*.

of which 200*l.* came by Queen Anne's bounty. In 1809, the yearly value of the living, arising from augmentation, tithes, rent charge, and surplice fees, was returned by the bishop to the governors of Queen Anne's bounty, as amounting to 76*l.* 18*s.*

The foundation of the church, says Mr. Ormerod, was certainly anterior to 1250, as appears by a deed among the evidences of the earl of Shrewsbury, whereby Bernard, lord of Tranmulle, releases to Philip the clerk, son of Galfridus Munitor, 12*d.* rent, issuing from premises near the church of St. Martin, in Chester, Alan le Zouche being then justice of Chester. William Clarke was instituted to this rectory, July 7, 1637, on the presentation of the bishop of Chester. This is the first institution extant in the episcopal registers.

“In 1670, it was ordered by the dean and chapter, y^t a presentation to this parochial church be granted to Thomas Clarke, one of y^e petty canons, in y^e preamble to which order it is said, that he had officiated there for some time in their right and by their appointment as their curate, as Will. Otty, and his father Tho. Otty, and Mr. Swann, had done before, which last had institution and induction into it.”

In 1699, a minister was elected by the inhabitants. After this the rector of St. Bridget's commonly supplied the church, preaching there once a month, and administering the sacrament once a quarter. In 1752, a clerk was regularly collated to the rectory of St. Martin's, and the succession has been as follows :—

<i>Presented.</i>	<i>Rectors.</i>
1725	Nathaniel Lancaster.
1738	Richard Jackson, A.B.
1739	John Baldwin, A.M.
1793	William Clarke, A.M.

<i>Presented.</i>	<i>Rectors.</i>
1795	Thomas Armitstead.
1806	John Willan.
1826	William Godwin, A.M.

In point of extent and population, this is the smallest parish in the city; the amount of the latter in 1821, being only 565. The registers, consisting of six volumes, in very indifferent condition, commence in 1680, and are continued, without interruption to the present time.

MONUMENTAL MEMORIALS.

Of these, the numbers are very few, and of slender attractions.—The only memorial worthy of particular notice is a pyramidal mural monument, on the south side of the communion table, ornamented with the arms of Chetwode, of Oakley, in a losenge, and commemorating Abigail, relict of Thomas Jones, of Churton, Esq. daughter of Sir John Chetwode, of Oakley, county Stafford, bart. She died June 11, 1776, aged 73.

On the west wall of the church, over the door, a circular marble tablet—“Sacred to the memory of Mrs. Elizabeth Trafford, late of this parish, who died 26th of January, 1816, aged 77 years.”

In the aisle, a flag inscribed to the memory of Thomas Jones, of Whitefriars; died 21st of June, 1813, aged 58; and also to his two wives, Mary and Leah; the former died Dec. 18, 1808, aged 64; the latter died 14th of February, 1817, aged 32.

On a painted board on the south wall—“Samuel Henley, who was parish clerk of this parish 47 years; also parish clerk of St. Oswald’s parish church 37 years; he died April 19th, 1783, aged 73 years.”

On the north side of the communion, the remains of Captain George Moulson were interred 16th November, 1826, aged 44; and Nov. 21, 1828, those of his mother, Eleanor Moulson, aged 78. This notice is derived from the parish register, and the information of the clerk, there being no memorial to mark their place of sepulture.

ST. MARY'S ON THE HILL.

St. Mary's church, anciently called the church of St. Mary *de Castro*, was given to the abbey of St. Werburgh, by Randal Gornons, fourth Earl of Chester. After the dissolution, the rectory was granted to the dean and chapter of Chester; it was, however, with the other chapter estates, as previously mentioned, got possession of by Sir Robert Cotton in the time of Dean Cliffe, and confirmed to the fee-farmers generally, by Pat. 22 Eliz. Previous to this final settlement, Richard Hurleston had obtained from George Cotton, esq. his interest in the same for 100*l.* an. 13 Eliz. probably, however, only as a trustee of John Brereton, of Wettenhall; who had presented to this church in 1554. From this branch of the Brereton family, the rectory passed, with a moiety of Wettenhall and other estates, by sale to the Wilbrahams of Dorfold; and from them by marriage to the Rev. Robert Hill, of the Hough, in right of his wife, daughter of the Rev. John Wilbraham; from whom in 1819, it passed by purchase to the Earl Grosvenor, who is the present patron.

The parish extends beyond the city liberties into the county, and comprehends the townships of Upton, Little Mollington, Moston, Marleston-cum-Lache,* and Gloverstone, in Broxton hundred, and Handbridge within the city of Chester. The church stands high on a rock, near the

* The owners and occupiers of property in this township had for some time resisted the payment of the church-rates levied by St. Mary's parish, maintaining that they were *without* its limits. The parish, however, resolved to press its claim, and a legal litigation seemed on the point of being instituted; when the objectors, having obtained the opinion of a learned civilian unfavourable to their views, yielded a reluctant compliance to the demand, and on being summoned before the city magistrates, in August, 1830, gave up the point by paying the rates.

Dee between the Bridge-gate and the castle, from which it is separated by a deep fosse, called the Castle-ditch. Like our other churches it is built of red-stone, and consists of a tower,* containing six bells, a nave and chancel, with side aisles and subordinate chancels at the end of these aisles. The aisles is divided from the side aisles by three pointed arches on each side, and by another pointed arch from the chancel: and each subordinate chancel is also divided from its aisle by a pointed arch, and by an obtuse one from the principal chancel. Of these last, the arch on the north side has been modernized. The windows on this side are more obtusely pointed than the others, and contain fragments of stained glass: among others, the arms of Brereton and Ipstones, and a golden tun, probably intended as a rebus.

The south aisle was anciently called *Troutbeck chapel*, and appropriated to the family of Troutbeck, of Dunham; it was originally built about the year 1433,† by William

* The tower is only about fifty feet high; it was repaired in 1715, and a further increase to its altitude was objected to by the governor of the castle, because it would command a view of the castle-yard.—*Pigott*.

† *Agreement between William Troutbeck, Esq. and Thomas Betes, mason, For building a Chapel at Chester.*

This endenture, made by twene William Troutebek, Esquier, on that on p'tie, and Thomas Betes, mason, on that other p'tie, bares witnesse, that the forsaid Thomas has made covenant and granted to the said William, that he shall make a chapell in the chirche yorde of Seynte Marie on the Hill, on the south side of the chauncell of the chirche there; that is to wete, the east ende, the south side, and the west ende, contenyng the lengthe of the chauncell there, and xviii fote wide with inne the walls, and as high as hit nedes reasonably to be: with v faire and clenely wrought wyndowes, full of light; that is to say, on gable wyndow in the east ende, with iiij lightes, and iij wyndowes on the south side, ichone of iij lightes; and on the west ende in the best wise to be deviset; and iiij botras on the south side, with a grete arche in the west ende; and the chapelle to be battellet above like to the littell closet with inne the castell of Chester, with a corbyl table longyng thereto; and at ayther end iij honest fynyals. And the forsaid William shall pay to the forsaid Thomas xxli like as the worke goes forwarde; and also give him a gowne; and also the forsaid William shall fynde fre stone, lyme sonde, wat', wyndelasse, and stuff for to scaffold with, and such manere necessaries as the forsaid Thomas nedes; and all manere of cariages that longen thereto; and the forsaid Thomas shall, by ov'sight of Maester John Asser, make the chapell, and all thyngs that longen thereto (masoncraft)

Troutbeck, and Joan his wife, and here many of that family were interred, and had splendid monuments erected to their memory. Of these monuments, one of the Randal Holmes says, "they were thought to exceed any thing of the kind in England."* The former notice of a chantry in this church (extracted from the general Ecclesiastical Survey, 26 Henry VIII.) most probably relates to the Troutbeck chapel :—" Cantaria infra eccl'iam Beate Marie Cestrie Johannes Dutton capellanus Valet in redd' provenien' de certis terris et tenementis in civitate Cestrie annuatim per cantaristam ib'm recept' ad annum cvjs. viiij*d.* x*ma.* inde xs. viiij."

After this chapel had stood for the space of nearly 230 years, in 1660 it fell down, by which the monuments already spoken of were destroyed. It appears to have

honestly. In wytnesse of the whech thyng to these p'sentes endentures, the p'ties forsaide, aither anendes other, haven set to their sealx.—Gyven at Chester the Mononday next before the feste of the Natyvyte of Seynt John the Baptyst, in the year of Kyng Henry the Sixt after the conquest xi.

[The seal gone.—The above document was in the possession of the Earl of Shrewsbury in 1807.]

* The following is a description of the tomb of the founder, Sir Wm. Troutbeck, taken a short time before its destruction, and communicated to Mr. Ormerod, by Wm. Hamper, esq.—" It was a fair tombe of one of the Troutbecks. The man all in riche armour, with a riche border of pearles and stones, about his head, on the helmet. On the front of the helmet, over his forehead, was engraven *Jesu Nazarenus Rex*. All the plates and edges of his armour curiously wrought, as it were imbracery, with a collar of SS. about his neck, of gold, one gauntlet in his hand, and his wife's hand in the other. Under his feet a lion couchant; under her head, a helmet mantled, having on it a wreath of trouts and a moor's head. She hath her head richly attired, with a veil over her head, with a blue gown, and a short surcoat of black. At her feet a lamb, and two angels supporting the cushions under her head."

Mr. Ormerod is decidedly of opinion, that this description refers to the monument of the founder of the chapel. Webb, in King's Vale Royal, describes another splendid memorial standing in this spot, erected to Sir Adam Troutbeck, the grandson of the above Sir William: concerning which he says, that it was for "Sir Adam Troutbeck and his lady, which sheweth that she was a countess, her statue lying upon his right hand, and her collar of SS. finely adorning her bare neck; his head supported like the others, and many escutcheons of their arms were fairly engraven about both their said tombs, which might shew all their marriages and descents, but that the same by length of time are grown so dim, that they cannot be well discerned."

remained in a dilapidated state until the year 1690, when the chapel, upon the application of Sir Joseph Jekyll, chief justice of Chester, to the Earl of Shrewsbury, (the representative of the Troutbeck family) was formally given up to the parishioners.* The present south aisle

* The following is an authenticated copy of the document by which this grant was made, and which has never been published ; the original is carefully preserved in an iron chest in the church :—“ To all Xnian People to whome these presents shall come, the Right Hoble. Charles Earle of Shrewsbury, &c. sendeth Greeting—Whereas the south chancell (comonly called Troutbeck's chappell) parcell of the parish church of St. Maryes upon the Hill, in the citty of Chester is, and for divers yeares last past hath byn decayed and out of repayre, and for that the same hath bynn reputed to belong unto the sayd Earle, and his ancestors, the inhabitants of the sayd parish have neglected to repayre the same, Now knowe yee that the sayd Earle, upon the earnest suite and request of the present minister and churchwardens, and the parishioners of the sayd parish of St. Mary on the Hill, in the citty of Chester, and for divers other good causes and considerations him the sayd Earle thereunto moveing, and especially that the sayd chancell may be forthwith repayred, and for ever hereafter kept in good repayre by the churchwardens and inhabitants of the sayd parish of St. Maryes on the Hill and their successors, and the sayd Earle and his heires and assignes for ever fully and clearely acquitted and discharged of, and from the repayre thereof hath given, graunted, released, and confirmed, and by these presents dothe freely and clearely give, graunt, release and confirm unto John Wrench and John Cotgreave, churchwardens of the sayd parish and parish church, the sayd chappell, or parte of the sayd parish church (commonly called Troutbeck's chappell), and every parte and parcell thereof, with th'appertenances and all the right, title, interest, clayme, and demanda whatsoever of him the sayd Earle, of in and to the same and every parte thereof, to have and to hould the sayd chappell or parte of the sayd parish church and every parte thereof, with the appurtenances unto the sayd John Wrench and John Cotgreave and their successors (churchwardens of the sayd parish and parish church for the tyme being) for ever, to the use, benefitt, and behoofe of the inhabitants and parishioners of the sayd parish of St. Maryes upon the Hill for ever, as a free gift of him the sayd Earle, and that freely, clearly, and absolutely, without any manner of lett, suite, trouble, disturbance, or molestation of him the sayd Earle, or of his heires or assignes, or any of them, or of any other p'son or p'sons whatsoever clayming or to clayme by from or under him them or any of them in any wise, att and under the yearly rent of one peppercorne to be payd yearly to the sayd Earle, his heires and assignes on the feast day of St. Michaell Th'arch-Angell (if lawfully demanded), in token only as an acknowledgment for the above-mentioned guifte and graunt. In witness whereof he the sayd Earle hath hereunto sett his hand and sealle, the fowerteenth day of March, in the third yeare of the raigne of o'r Sovereign Lord and Lady William and Mary, by the Grace of God over England, &c. King and Queene, defenders of the ffayth, &c. Anno Dni. 1690-91 :—

was erected on its site at the expence of the parish, which has ever since retained undisturbed possession of it. On one part of the site of this chapel is a small neat vestry; and on another, an inclosed angle, in which is a modern font, which latterly replaced an ancient octagonal one, formerly ornamented with gilding and painting, but now thrown aside as useless; here also is an excellent panelled seat for the convenience of women who come to be churched.

The north aisle was anciently called the chapel of St. Catherine, and contains several curious monuments worthy of attention.—In August, 1793, a neat organ was put up in the west gallery, by Mr. Challinor, at an expence of 175*l*.

VICARS OF ST. MARY'S.

Presented. Vicars.

1314 Radulphus de Clypston.
 1324 Ricardus de S'c'o Edmundo.
 1327 Alanus de Retford.
 1335 Thomas de Capenhurst.
 1338 Guido de Newton.
 1342 Thomas de Bēfynton.
 1361 Johannes Squire.
 1361 Johannes de Shavinton.
 1404 Johannes Willaston.
 Ricardus Pensell.
 1458 Jacobus Stanley.
 1464 Rogerus Asser.
 1471 Henricus Smith.
 1498 Johannes Veysey.
 1506 James Straythwell.
 John Brereton.
 1542 Richard Whitehead.
 1543 Henry May.
 1543 James Courthoppe.

Presented. Vicars.

1545 Thomas Taylor.
 1554 Charles Duckworth.
 1596 Robert Collier.
 1623 Francis Edwards.
 Nicholas Stephenson.
 1673 Thomas Kirkes.
 1673 Richard Wright.
 1710 Ralph Markham.
 1715 Hugh Wilbraham.
 1724 John Cartwright.
 1731 Arthur Williams.
 Thomas Brooks, A.M.
 1744 John Wilbraham.
 1765 Richard Henshall, A.M.
 1768 Middleton Jones, LL.B.
 1772 Robert Hill.
 1803 Rowland Hill.
 1819 Thomas Mawdesley, A.M.

(Signed) Shrewsbury—[Before which signature the Arms of the said Earl appendant thereunto]—[Indorsement]—Seled and delivered in the presence of Jo : Howen, Griff. Phillips.—The foregoing is a true copy of the original Grant of Charles Earl of Shrewsbury [now the property of the Parishioners of Saint Mary's church in Chester, usually kept in the parish chest] taken on the fifth day of April, in the year one thousand seven hundred eighty two, by T. Crane.

In 1821, the population of this parish was 3376. The registers, bound up in eight volumes, commence in 1628, and they are continued to the present time almost without any intermission. In the registry is the following curious entry, of the date of 1636 :—" Three witchis hanged at Michaelmas assizes buried in the co."

MONUMENTS, &c. IN MARY'S CHURCH.

This church abounds with memorials to the dead ; though many of the monuments noticed by Webb, in the Vale Royal, no longer exist.

At the end of the north aisle are the arms and crest of Edmund Gamul, with this inscription :—" The bodies of the just are buried in peace, but their names live for ever.—Ecclus. 44.—Here lieth the body of Edmund Gamul, sometime maior of this citie, who had two wives, Elizabeth, the daughter of Thomas Case, by whom he had issue three sons and three daughters. And Elizabeth, the widdow of William Goodman, sometime maior of this city, who died without issue ; who departed this life in the yeare of his age of"

Close to this is a curious tomb of Thomas Gamul, son of the above Edmund Gamul, who died before his father, and was recorder of the city : this tomb is very curiously wrought in alabaster, with the statues of him, and his loving wife upon his right hand, his infant son (afterwards Sir Francis Gamul) kneeling with one knee at his mother's feet, his prayer-book lying open upon his other knee ; on the arched side of the tomb are cut the figures of his three daughters, who died in their infancy, also in a kneeling position, and each holding in her hand the representation of a skull. The tomb is enclosed with a strong piked iron railing, and at its lower end is the following inscription :—" *Ossibus et Memoriam Thomam Gamuelis, ornatissimi armigeri, et juris consulti clarissimi, in quo eximia quedam ingenii suavitas cum summa morum gravitate ancipiti palmam contendebat : quiq ; (proh dolor !) in ipso ætatis dignitatisq ; suæ flore, ardentissima febre correptus, et præreptus ; immaturo funere tristissimum toti Cestriæ (cui per aliquot annos præfuerat) à memoriâ multiplicis suæ scientiæ, admirabilis, prudentiæ, singularis fidei, spectatissimæ probitatis, et pietatis minimè vulgaris, decid. reliquit : Alicia, uxor quondam beatissimæ, nunc moestissima vidua, parvum hoc non-parvi amoris monumentum, multis cum lacrimis precibusq ; profusis, ponit simul consecratq. In quo ipsa posthac sua quoq : ossa recondi et permisceri cineribus tam chari capitis nimis miserè cupit : ut ab eo jam mortuo nunquam sejungatur quicum vivo olim conjunctissimè et jucundissimè vixerat : Vixit autem ille annos XLII. obiit decimo die Augusti, anno à partu Virginis MDCXIII. Ubi nunc quatuor liberorum lætus parens factus fuerat ; quorum tamen hodiè unus tantum suprestes est,*

isq; minimus natu nomine Franciscus, puerulus optimæ spei; cui ego quidem omnia bona in hoc uno voto exopto : Sit Patri simullimus.

Hunc tumulum tibi composui, charissime conjux :

Quo mea mista tuis molliter ossa cubent.

Dilexi vivum, volo defunctum comitari :

Nam quos junxit amor, dissociare nefas.

About the middle of the north aisle is a fair plate, with the following inscription :—“ Hic subtus humatur corpus Radulphi Worsley, armig. qui fuit filius tertius Gulielmi Worsley, de Worsley Meyne, in comitatu Lancastriæ, arm. ac quondam serviens, scilicet, pagettus garderobæ robarum, ac unus dapiferorum cameræ invictiss. principis Henrici octavi, Dei gratiæ Angliæ, Franc. et Hiber. nuper regis. Cui idem rex ob bonum et fidele servitium circum regiam suam personam impensum, ex regiâ sua magnificentiâ ad terminum vitæ donaverat officia satellitis coronæ, custodiam leonum, leonarum, et leopardorum intra Turrim Londinensem; portatoris magnæ garderobæ, contra rotulator. in com. Cestr. et. Flint, clerici coronæ Lanc. et esceator. com. palat. Lancast. aliasq; remunerationes. Hiis accesserunt præstantes animi detes coelitus ei tributæ, quibus insigniter erat imbutus, nempe singularis in Deum pietas, multifaria in pauperes beneficentia, et mira in cunctos charitas. Annos 80 natus et ultra, 27 die Decem. anno Dom. 1573, expiravit, relictâ sobole Alicia conjuge Tho. Powel, arm. qui hos sumptos fecit; Katherinâ nupta Thomæ Tutchet, arm. et Avisia Thomæ Vawdrey, gen. de Joanna filia Johannis Pike, armig. uxore sua progeneris. — Nullâ coelum reparabile Gasa.”

Near to this, and close to the same wall, is a very fine tomb of alabaster, curiously adorned, a well-formed statue of Philip Oldfield, dressed in the costume of the age, with a ruff round the neck, leaning on the right side, with a roll in his hand. Below, on the side, is a painted skeleton, and the slab is supported by kneeling figures of his four sons, with their right hands applied to the hilts of their swords; on the left hands are shields, with the arms of Oldfield, Wettenhall, Somerford, Mainwaring of Croxton and Leftwich. Figures of two daughters are placed at the head, supporting shields, with the arms of Shackerley, Wettenhall, and Oldfield. Above is the following inscription :—“ Philippo Oldfield, ar. ob navata' in construendis viis pontibusque operam, in eruendis antiquissimis familiæ stem'atibus, benè de eom. hoc merito : qui in pri'um matrimonium Helenæ Guliel' Berington de Brad : hered. copulavit ex qua Tho. et Eliz. Joh' Wettenhalls nuptam, genuit : ad secunda vota convolans, Helen Griffith, vid', fil. Guliel. Hammer, ar. duxit; p. qua' tres filios, una' filia' p'creavit. Quoru' po'genit. Phi. Mariæ unicæ filiæ et hered. Joh'n. Somerford de Som', ar. Mich' Elianoræ hered. Jacobi Mainwaringe de Croxto', ar. Guliel' Eliz.' hered. Rob'i Leftwich de de Lefth, ar. Marga' filia' Petro Shakerley po'genito nepoti ex hered. Gulfrid' Shakerley de Hulme, ar. in matrim' felicissimè elecavit, jure consulto municipalli clarissimo marito suo chariss. Helena uxor relictâ sepulchr. hoc monumentum consecravit. Obiit 15 Dec. 1616, ætat suæ 75.”

Beneath this elegant monument is a tablet, on which is inscribed :—“ In June, 1788, this tombe and monument was repaired and cleaned by order of the rev. Doctor Richard Jackson, prebendary of Chester, whose mother was wife of Richard Jackson, esq. of Betchton-house, near Sandbach, in this county, and who was the only daughter of William Oldfield, esq. and

Lætitia his wife, and great grandson of Philip Oldfield, esq. and Ellen his wife, of Bradwall, in this county."

To the same pillar is attached a board, on which are painted the arms of Holme, quartering Tranmoll and Lynne, and impaling Alcock. Inscription:—"Here beneath lyeth the bodyes of Randle Holme, of ye citie of Chester, Ald' and Justice of Peace, and was Maior thereof 1633, died ye 16 of Jany. 1655, æt. 84; also of Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Tho. Alcock, and widow to Tho. Chaloner, gent. She dyed the 24 of May, 1635, and yssue two sones, William Holme yt died 1628, without yssue livinge, and Randle Holme, now living, who was also maior of this citty 1643."

On the same pillar is a stone monument, at the top of which are also the family arms. Inscription:—"Here lies the body of Randle Holme, gent. sewer extraordinary to King Charles ye 2d, and deputy to ye kings at arms, who died 12th March, 1699; and Randle Holme his son, deputy to Norroy king att arms, who died 30th day of August, 1707. He married Margaret, daughter of Griffith Lloyd, of Llanarmon, in the county of Denbigh, gent. by w^m he had issue Sara, Eliz. Kat. Randle, and Kat. who died before their father, and lye here intersed."

Near the above, a large wooden monument, decorated with the arms and quarterings of Holme, the crests of Holme and Tranmoll, and smaller coats of Holme impaled with those of his two wives. On this board are also inscriptions to the memory of several branches of this family, which, however, it is unnecessary to insert.

On a brass plate in the same aisle: "Here lyeth the body of William Brock, of Upton, in the county of Chester, esquire, who by Anne his wife, daughter and co-heir to Robert Mehune, of Baynton, in the county of Dorset, esq.; had yssue 4 sones and 7 daughters. He died on the 4th day of April, 1640; and here also lieth the body of Edward Brock, his unkell, who died on the 8d day of October, 1689.—Susanna, daughter to Joseph Hockenhull, of Shetwick, esq. wife of William Brock.—William Brock, esq. died 10 Jan. 1715, aged 73.—William Brock, of Upton, esq. his eldest son, died Aug. 10, 1734, aged 58 years.

Adjoining is a neat marble monument, inscribed—"To the memory of Mrs. Susanna Brock, who died March 20th, 1766. She was daughter to William Brock, esq. of Upton, in this county, and the last of that ancient family. This monument was erected by her nephew and nieces, the son and daughters of John Egerton, esq. of Broxton, in this county."

In the south aisle are memorials of—Tho. Duke, mayor of Chester 1740, died 27 Nov. 1764, aged 76.—Philippa, wife of Thomas Browne, of Netherlegh, daughter of Tho. Berrington, of Chester, by whom he had 10 sons and 5 daughters; she died, aged 42, May 6, 1664.—The same Thomas, who died 1669, aged 42, having married to his second wife Jane, daughter of Richard Leycester, of Great Budworth, relict of Charles Levesby, of Chester, who survived him.—Ales, daughter of Matthew Browne, of Netherlegh, and wife of Thomas Parnel, of Chester, obiit v. Sep. 1689.—Matthew Browne, gent. obiit 24 Nov. 1634.

Richard Browne, of Upton, co. Cest. son and heir of Thomas Browne, by Elizabeth his wife, daughter to Henry Birkenhead, esq. clerk to the green cloth to Queen Elizabeth, son and heir of Richard Browne, son and heir of Thomas Browne, of Upton. The above said Richard Browne died Jan 4,

1624, having had two wives ; first, Frances, daughter of Sir George Beverley, of Huntington, knt. who died s. p. ; and 2dly, Mary, daughter of Sir Thomas Ashton, of Ashton, knt. by whom he had Thomas Browne, of Upton, and Richard, of London. She afterwards married Jacques Arnodio, gent. and died 17 Feb. 1668, aged 87.—Thomas Browne, son and heir, died at Munster, in Ireland, having married Grisel, daughter to — Dobb, of Ireland, by whom he had Thomas, Robert, Francia, Richard, Mary, Judith, Grisel, and Dorothy. She died in childbed, 19 June, 1641.—Thomas Browne, son and heir, married Cicely, daughter to William Glegg, of Gayton, esq. who died in childbed of her daughter Cicely, March 16, 1661.

Thomas Birkenhead, gent. and Ales his wife ; he died 12 Nov. 1644 ; she died Jan. 1, 1691.—William Holme, eldest son of Randle Holme, died 10 July, 1623.

On stones in the same aisle—Susanna, daughter of George and Anne Prescott, died 3 Feb. 1722.—Gregory, son of the same, died Oct. 4, 1725.—Anne, wife of the said George, died 22 Sept. 1740, aged 59 years.—George Prescott, merchant, died March 10, 1747, aged 67.—Thomas Prescott, of Eardshaw, co. Cest. esq. died 29 Oct. 1768, aged 63.—John Glegg, of Irbie Hall, esq. died 6 Feb. 1804, aged 72.—Betty Baskervyle Glegg, his wife, died 9 July, 1810, aged 77.

In the Overlegh pew in this aisle is a tablet, inscribed—“ Here lie interred Matthew Ellis, of Overlegh, in the county of the city of Chester, one of the gentlemen of the body guard to king Henry 8, son of Ellis ap Dio, ap Griffith, successor to Kenrick Sais, a British nobleman, and lineally descended from Tudor Trevor, earl of Hereford. He died 20 April, 1574. Alice, his wife, died 1547. His son Matthew Ellis, of Overlegh, gent. died 1575, whose wife, Eliz. daughter of Thomas Browne, of Netherley, gent. died 1570, having issue Julian, who was married to Thomas Cowper, of Chester, esq. Margery, and Matthew Ellis, of Overlegh, gent. he died 31 July, 1613. His wife Alice, daughter to Richard Birkenhead, of Manley, esq. died 6 July, 1640, having issue Katherine, wife to Randle Holme, of Chester, gent. and Matthew Ellis, of Overlegh, gent. who died 3 Nov. 1663 ; his wife Elizabeth, daughter to William Halton, of Baddiley, gent. died 4 Nov. 1671. Their son Matthew Ellis, gent. married Anne, daughter to John Birkenhead, of Backford, esq. He died 17 Feb. 1685 ; she died 4 Aug. 1689.—*Beati sunt mortui qui in Domino moriuntur.*”

Under the above inscription, is the following :—“ William Cowper, of Overlegh, in respect to these, his ancestors and relations, caused this decayed memorial to be restored Anno Domini 1739. He died 12th of October, 1767, aged 66.”

In the middle aisle are memorials of—Adam Birkened, and Alice his wife, daughter and co-heiress to John Huxly, died 1516.—Alex. and Edward Wynne, sons of Edward Wynne, of Brithic, Flintshire, by Elizabeth, daughter of Walter Horton, of Cotton, esq. ; Edward died Sept. 27, 1681, and Alexander, Oct. 2, following.—Katharine, youngest daughter of Matthew Ellis, of Overlegh, gent. wife of Randle Holme, sheriff of Cheshire, 1633, died 15 March, 1640.—Hugh Whickstead, coroner of Cheshire, (died 1646) and Alice his wife (1656) and Hugh their second son.

In the chancel, on stones, are memorials of four children of John and Elizabeth Hill, viz.—Emma Jane Barbarah, 3rd daughter, died May 8,

1810 (15 months); Emma Jane Barbarah, Nov. 8, 1810 (three months); Elizabeth Anne, 2nd daughter, born Aug. 3, 1805, died Jan. 27, 1812; Robert Wilbraham Hill, fourth son, born April 9, 1815, died July 4, 1815. Also, Capt. Peter Wilbraham, died Feb. 27, 1765, aged 40.—Mary his wife, died Jan. 10, 1766, aged 37.

At the north side of the altar rails, on a brass plate, is a memorial of Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Wright, S.T.B. rector of St. Mary's, and Mary his wife, daughter of John Wainwright, LL.D. chancellor of Chester.

Over this are two mural marble monuments:—"Underneath lie the remains of the Rev. Middleton Jones, LL.B. late of Cribarth, in the county of Brecon, formerly rector of this parish, who died the 9th of November, 1755, aged 47.—The other is to the memory of Peter Cotton, of the family of the Cottons, of Cotton, who died Feb. 16, 1715-6, leaving charitable legacies to the amount of £500 to the charities and poor of Chester, Northwich, and Witton.

Opposite to this is a memorial for several of the family of Eyton, of Pentre-madoc, and at the side of it the following:—"In this chancel lieth the body of Roger Wilbraham, late of Dorfold, in the county of Chester, esq. who departed this life on the 24th day of January, 1768, in the 52nd year of his age.

On a pillar in the south aisle—"To the pious memory of Mr. John Snow, alderman of Chester, whose faith and piety to God, candour to men, temperance, patience, and honesty, deserve a long commemoration. A generous benevolence and sweetness of temper, appeared in all his actions, but chiefly in his tender care and affection for his orphan sisters:—*They*, Sarah, Isabell, and Elizabeth, erected this monument, the smallest tribute of their grief and gratitude. He died Oct. 2, 1749, aged 43.—Near to this, a tablet to the memory of Peter Dewsbury, alderman; died 19th February, 1773."

On a pillar in the middle aisle, near the pulpit, a tablet—"Sacred to the memory of Edward Nash, second son of the late Richard Nash, Esq. of Walberton, Sussex, who died at Chester castle, the 28th of November, 1808, aged 61 years. His remains are deposited in the middle aisle of this church."

A marble tablet, with a latin inscription, records the demise of Johannes Cotgreave, and Elizabeth his wife; the former died March, 1724, aged 80 years; the latter 27th Nov. 1735, aged 87.—In the middle aisle, is a vault, wherein are interred the remains of the late Mr. John Dodd, skinner, who served the office of sheriff of the city in 1818-19, and died in the month of March, 1827. There is no memorial nor inscription to mark the place of his sepulture.

In the year 1578, as noticed by Mr. Ormerod, from the Harl. MSS. 2151, were the following arms and inscriptions, existing in the windows, but which are now destroyed:—

In the chancel window over the communion table, the royal arms, with those of Hugh Lupus, Venables, Troutbeck Dedwood, Davenport, and Leche, with the inscriptions following: "Orate pro anima Johannis Davenport, hujus eccl'ie rectoris, qui hanc fenestram fieri fecit 1534."—"Orate

pro a'i'a Joh'is Willaston, quondam rectoris hujus eccl'ie, et pro a'i'abus
.....parentum ejus.....1400."

In St. Catherine's chapel a petition to pray for the souls of Randle Brereton, of Chester, and his wives Cecillia and Johanna, 1523.

In the window next to St. Catherine's chapel, two kneeling figures, with the arms of Eaton, and underneath : Orate pro bono statu Ricardi Grosvenor, Sibillæ uxoris ejus, qui hoc opus fecit 1524.

In another north window a figure of Matthew Ellis, in a surcoat, and helmet, and sons after him, and his wife in a veil, and daughters after her ; and in a high window in the middle aisle, " Of year charity pray for the soul of Matthew Ellis, and Elizabeth his wife."

It does not appear from any thing I have been able to collect, when these reliques of antiquity and superstition were destroyed ; but it is probable their demolition may be ascribed to puritanical zeal, when the parliamentary forces had possession of the city about 1647.

St. Bridget's Church.

THE CHURCH AND PARISH OF ST. BRIDGET.

The church belonging to this parish, till within the last three years, stood on a piece of ground, on the south side of Whitefriars, where the division is formed between Upper and Lower Bridge-street. Its contiguity to St. Michael's church, gave to this part of the city the popular name of *The Two Churches*, which it will probably long retain, notwithstanding the removal of the cause which gave birth to it.

The origin of St. Bridget's church* is buried in obscurity, but it may probably be dated from the reign of King Offa, who died A. D. 797, about which time we read, "That divers parish churches were erected in Chester." At an early period after the conquest, the patronage of this church was vested in the lords of Aldford, one of

* St. Bridget's church takes its name from a Queen of Sweden.—*Note in the Crane MSS.*

whom quitclaimed the same, with the advowson of Sandbach, to Randal Blundeville, earl of Chester, shortly after the suit between the earl and Sir Richard de Sandbach, in 1224. A record of the pleadings in this case, heard in the King's bench, brought into that court by writ of certiorari, 38 Henry III. still exists among the Harl. MSS. There subsequently appears a connection between this church and a chapel belonging in the thirteenth century to the family of Arneway (one of whom occurs in the list of Chester mayors 1268 to 1276), who to the abbey of St. Werburgh were great benefactors. In the chartulary of St. Werburgh it is recorded, that this chapel, with the messuages in "*Brugge-streete*," was granted by Bertram, son of William Arneway, to the abbey of St. Werburgh; and in consequence of further donations, Simon, abbot of Chester (1265-89) bound himself to maintain two chaplains to celebrate mass for the soul of the said John Arneway, one before the altar of St. Leonard, in the conventual church, and the other before the altar of the Virgin in the church of St. Bridget.

At the time of the dissolution it is found, in the "wagis of P'stes," paid by this abbey, 1111*l.* allowed to Richard Lowther, "Pryeste att the churche of Saynte Brygggytts;" and in the pension roll of 1556, "Penc' Ric'i Lowther, presbiter' nup' celebran' in eccl'ia S'c'e Brigett. in civit. Cestr. p. ann. 1111*l.*" The church is now deemed a rectory; is in the gift of the bishop, and clerks have been regularly instituted since 1603. The Rev. Richard Massie is the present incumbent, who has for his curate the Rev. Thomas Bradford. The value of augmentation, stipend, and surplice fees were returned by the bishop in 1809, as amounting to 68*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.*

About the middle of the seventeenth century, the church was taken down, previous to which, its appearance is represented by the above wood engraving, copied from a rude sketch taken by Randle Holme. On the removal of this structure, the church was rebuilt, when a wall was erected round it, which inclosed several feet of the streets on the east and north sides, then used as a

burying ground. In the year 1745, ground was purchased by the parish, behind the church, into which the interred bodies were removed, and all the ground on the north and east of the church, thrown to the street, much to the public convenience. At this time, also, the east and north walls of the church were re-cased with stone, the east passage to the vestry closed, and an additional door made eastward of the old one, on the north side; every other part of the church, at the same time, was thoroughly repaired, at a very great expence, which was chiefly defrayed by money sunk for annuities, after the rate of ten per cent. by Ann Robinson and Susannah Joinson. Since 1805, the steeple required several other repairs. The accompanying engraving will shew the form and appearance of this church immediately before the time of its entire removal.

This church had four bells; there is a tradition in the parish that it formerly had five, but that one was seized by a churchwarden for a parish debt, and carried to Waverton; this appears the more probable, from there being a defect in the peal, between the third and fourth bells.

When the erection of the new bridge was finally decided upon, St. Bridget's church stood upon a site which it was deemed necessary to occupy, in order to form a suitable approach to the bridge. Before, however, the church could be removed, it became requisite that ground for a new structure should be provided; and in this emergency the county magistrates, who were desirous of removing every impediment that stood in the way of the projected improvement, granted a suitable plot on the north-west side of the castle, which was accordingly inclosed for the purpose. The ceremony of laying the first stone of the new church took place Oct. 12, 1827, and was performed by the Right Rev. C. J. Blomfield, then lord bishop of the diocese; it was erected under the provision of the bridge act, by the commissioners for building new churches; the length is about 90 feet, and the width 50, and the church is calculated to contain

1000 persons. The structure was built from a design by W. Cole, jun. Esq. who succeeded the late Mr. Harrison, as county architect; and executed in a superior style of elegance, by Mr. John Wright, of this city. The land occupied by the building and church-yard comprizes two thousand one hundred and sixty-seven square-yards. It is rather a remarkable circumstance, that although St. Bridget's parish is wholly within the city, the ground occupied by the church and cemetery is neither within the parish or the city, but altogether within the county palatine; but by a clause in the act it is enacted, that after the consecration, it shall "for all purposes, and to all intents whatsoever, be deemed part of, and situate within the said parish of St. Bridget, and within the said city of Chester." The subjoined sketch will afford a tolerably correct idea of the external form of the church:

The old church in Bridge-street was taken down in 1828, to make room for the street leading to the new bridge, as it stood exactly across the opening; and soon after the consecration of the new burial ground, the grave-stones, and as far as practicable, the interred bodies were carefully removed to that cemetery.

RECTORS OF ST. BRIDGET'S.

Presented. Rectors.
 1603 John White, A.M.
 — Mason.
 1608 Thomas Allen.
 1609 Richard Jones.
 1610 John Evans.
 1614 Robert Lloyd.
 1616 Francis Pilkington.
 1638 William Cleakson.
 Christopher Goodman.

Presented. Rectors.
 Lawrence Wood.
 1710 John Kirkes, A.B.
 1717 James Thompson, A.M.
 1720 Thomas Parry, A.M.
 1755 Edward Mainwaring, A.M.
 1761 Thomas Woodwright, A.B.
 1782 William Nelson.
 1810 Richard Massie, A.M.

The population of this parish, in 1821, was 805. The registers, comprized in eight volumes, commence in 1649.

 MONUMENTS, &c.

In St. Bridget's church, before its removal from the ancient site in Bridge-street, the monumental inscriptions were few and unimportant.—The most interesting was one in the south chancel, containing on a large tablet, the following inscription :—" Here lyeth the body of Stephen Smith, Esq. his Majesty's customer of the port of Chester, controulor of the port of Dublyn, and escheator of the province of Munster, in the kingdom of Ireland (younger brother of Sir Thomas Smith of Chester and Hough, who was mayor of the city of Chester, 1622, and uncle of Sir Thomas Smith, bart. alderman of the said city, and Sir Lawrence Smith, of London, knight) ; he married Dorothy, daughter to Sir Nicholas Walgrave, Esq. and sister to the countess of Portland, by whom he had issue, Thomas, Robert, and Anne, who all died before him without issue ; he departed this life the 4th of September, 1665, aged 69 years. He was the son of Lawrence Smith, Esq. by Anne his wife, daughter to Sir Randle Mainwaring, of Peover, in the co. palatine of Chester, knight, who died the 19th of January, 1620 ; he was the sonne of Sir Thomas Smith, of Chester and Hough, knight (by Anne his wife, daughter of Sir William Brereton, of Brereton, knight), who was mayor of the said city anno 1596, and died the 21st of December, 1614 ; he was the son of Sir Lawrence Smith, knight (by Anne his wife, daughter of Sir Thomas Foulshurst, of Crewe, knight) who was mayor of Chester four times, in annis 1541, 1559, 1564, and 1571, was knighted in the Scottish wars, 1544, and died 3rd of September, 1582 ; he was sene of Sir Thomas Smith, of Chester and Hough, knight (by Catherine his wife, daughter of Sir Andrew Brereton, knight), he was mayor of Chester several times, and died about the year 1579."

Several other memorials occupied the church, but were of little interest. According to Randle Holme, in 1580, the church contained monuments to the families of Simpson, Clayton, Goodman, Williams, Hulton, Proby, Savage, Wright, and Jones.

Since the erection of the new church, some elegant memorials have been placed therein, of which the following is a list :—

On the east wall, near the communion table, a very handsome marble monument, inscribed :—Near this monument lie entombed the remains of Richard Barker, of Llindir, in the county of Denbigh, Esq. formerly of this parish, who died 21st October, 1818, aged 72.”—*Sculp. Tyley, Bristol.*

On the other side of the altar, a beautifully executed marble tablet :—“Sacred to the memory of Thomas Shaw, of this city, who died January 20, 1789, aged 50 years.—Also, Elizabeth, wife of the above Thomas Shaw ; died August 1, 1808, aged 56 years.—Also Thomas, son of the above Thomas and Elizabeth Shaw, died Feb. 22, 1802, aged 28 years.—And John Mellor, of this city, died Oct. 27, 1821, aged 52 years.—And of John, son of the above, John Mellor, died 28th February 1827.—Also, of Thomas Shaw Mellor, son of the first-named John Mellor ; died July 26, 1829, aged 34.”—*Sculp. Mr. John Wright, Chester.*

On the north-west angle, a plain tablet, inscribed :—“Elizabeth Jordan, died Oct. 28, 1782.—James Jordan, father of the above, died Dec. 31st, 1817.—Also, Abigail Jordan, wife of the above James Jordan, who died April 19, 1823, aged 79 years.”

In an arched recess, on the south wall of the baptistery, is a splendid marble memorial, with this inscription :—“Near this place lie interred, the remains of Francis Edge Barker, of this city, Esq. who departed this life June 10th, 1827, aged 40.”—*Sculp. Reeves & Son, Bath.*

[On the north wall of the baptistery, is a recess, corresponding with that which occupies Mr. Barker’s monument, at present unoccupied. The author understands that this is destined to be the receptacle of a superb memorial to Thomas Harrison, Esq. our late distinguished architect. A sketch of this monument has been prepared by the celebrated Chantry ; and a subscription has already been set on foot by the county gentlemen, to defray the expence. Mr. Harrison lies interred in a vault on the north side of the church.]

On the south wall of the church is a beautiful marble monument, with this inscription :—“Mary Nelson, died January 24, 1795. Her husband, the Rev. William Nelson, erected this monument, as a tribute of respect to her memory.”—Upon a tablet underneath :—“This tablet is placed as a tribute of respect to the memory of the Rev. William Nelson, late rector of this parish, who died 21st of September, 1810, by his nephew and niece, Nelson and Jane Batty.”

The practice of interment within the walls of the church is interdicted, and it is certainly desirable that a like prohibition was adopted in regard to all our sacred edifices.—New vaults in the church-yard were made as the receptacles of the remains of the dead interred *within* the old structure, in which all not of a very remote date were carefully deposited.—The following are among the number, with the inscriptions annexed :—

On the west side of the church.

Margaret Marsden, died 11th of August, 1795.—Thomas Marsden, died 29th January, 1800.

Anne, wife of William Edwards, died January 10, 1803.—William Edwards (alderman of Chester) died May 23, 1812.—Richard, son of the above, died August 24, 1820, aged 46.

Underneath lie the remains of Elizabeth, wife of John Williams of this city, grocer, died 2nd February, 1813, aged 75.—Also, the above John Williams, who died 20th of November, 1817, aged 78 years.

(Vault of Mr. John Massey, without inscription.)

Robert Pierce, of Whitefriars, who died July 24, 1815, aged 55.

(Vault of Mr. Thomas Parry, solicitor.)

Sacred to the memory of Hugh Hayward, Esq. of this city, barrister at law, who died August 28, 1788, aged 71 years.—Also, in the same grave, are deposited the remains of alderman Hugh Starkey, who died 1715.—Also, H. Hayward, mother of the said Hugh Hayward, Esq. She died 1740.

On the north side.

Underneath lieth the remains of Priscilla Lawrenson, who departed this life March 29, 1784, aged 82.—Also, Lawrence Lawrenson, son of the above.

On the east side.

George L. Hastings, died 10th August, 1795, aged 20 months.—Caroline L. Hastings, died 22nd February, 1797, aged nine months.

William Thomas, died 2nd December, 1815, aged 15 months.—Also, William Thomas, died 8th December, 1815, aged four months.

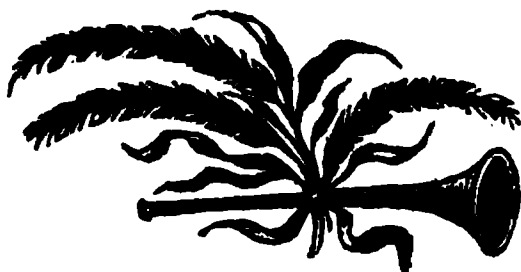
A vault belonging to Mr. Edward Titley, in which are deposited the remains of Mr. Owen Titley, surgeon, his brother.

(Vault containing the remains of T. Harrison, Esq. architect.)

(Vault belonging to the family of the late Mr. John Mellor, whose memorials in the church have been already noticed.)

(Vault of the Rev. R. Massie, rector of the parish, in which are deposited two of his children.)

(Vault belonging to Ph. Humberston, Esq.)



St. Michael's Church.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH AND PARISH.

The church of St. Michael's stands on the east side of Bridge-street, and the north of Pepper-street. It is a perpetual curacy, augmented by Queen Anne's bounty, and in the gift of the bishop. There is no historical data extant, by which to ascertain the period of its foundation; but, as there is mention made by Bradshaw (L. 2. c. 20) of the existence of the *monastery* of St. Michael early in the 12th century, it is probable that the *church* of that name was then in being. It is recorded by this writer, "that the monastery of St. Michael was burnt by the great fire which happened on Midlent Sunday, in 1118, at eight of the clock (all being in church) and consumed the greatest part of the city." This monastery was confirmed to Norton abbey by King Henry III. In relation

to this monastery, I find the following note in the Crane MSS. "It is conjectured to be situated in Bridge-street, in Rock's entry or court; where, Dr. Williamson says, before it was converted into dwelling-houses, one might have beheld fair church-like windows, and other demonstrations of its being part of a religious house. Mr. Stone, indeed, says, upon a view, I found no such windows or tokens in 1727. But what Dr. Williamson remarks may be true, notwithstanding; for such windows and tokens might have appeared previous to the year 1727, before dwelling-houses were built in Rock's-court."

The chancel of St. Michael's church was built in 1494, and enlarged in 1678; the body of the church was new roofed in 1611. The annexed wood cut is a facsimile of a drawing of this church by one of the Holmes, about the end of the seventeenth century. In 1710, the present steeple was built, but like most of our other churches, from the perishable nature of the stone, its exterior is so ragged and weather-beaten, as to give the appearance of extreme antiquity;* the steeple is 23 yards high, and cost 366*l.*; it contains six musical bells, cast by Rudhall of Gloucester, in 1726; the weight of them 30½ cwt. at an expence of 217*l.*

The church has an embattled tower, which is built over the east row of Bridge-street. The interior of the building consists of a nave, chancel, and north aisle divided from the body of the church by three pointed arches resting on octagonal columns with quatrefoils on the capitals. The nave has a timber roof nearly flat; that of the chancel formerly rested upon brackets which have

* This circumstance seems to have caught the attention of Dean Swift, as related, if I mistake not, by Spence. When this wit was once on his way from London to Dublin, he stopped for some time at the Yacht inn, in Watergate-street; and being alone, sent an invitation to several clergymen in the city to dine and spend the evening with him. Not one of them, however, made his appearance; upon which the Dean vented his spleen in the following epigrammatic philippic:—

"The church and clergy of this city
Are very near akin;—
They're *weather-beaten* all without,
And *empty* all within!"

been cut away, and was ornamented with carvings of foliage and other ornaments.

The value of the living, arising from augmentation, a legacy, and surplice fees, was returned by the bishop in 1809, as amounting to 44*l.* 10*s.* The Rev. Joseph Eaton, M.A. is the present rector.

In 1556, the following pensions continued to be paid to priests who had served this church before the reformation :—

Penc. Joh'is Thompsonne presbiter', nup. celebran. in eccl'ia s'c'i Mich'is Cest. p. ann. iiij *li*.

Georgii Hardie, unius presbiter. nup. celebran. in eccl'ia p'och. p'd. in civitat. p'd'ta ann. xis. vi*d.*

The following is an extract from a MS. which appears to have been a book for the account of receipt and expenditure of the church revenue, in the possession of Mr. Leacroft, solicitor of this city :—

“ Hereafter folowith the accomptes of us George Leghe, and Adam Goodman to our paris'ons, of the landes longinge to the use of Sante Mighelii, both of the same landes and peade to y^e priestes wages, with other matters and costes of reparasions and dead rites of y^e aforesayd landis given the last daye of July, in the furste yeare of Kinge Edwarde the Sixte, of the church of Englande and Hirelande, supreme heade—for vj year and one quarter before this forsayd date to this presente day above mentionedde.

The Rentes of Landis.
 Roger Leigh's house xxx*s.*
 Limme's house xv*s.*
 Goode Geste's house, widow.. x*s.*
 John Burket's house viij*s.*
 John Lingley's house xv*s.*
 Thomas Winchester's house.. xv*s.*
 The late wife of Thos. Wilcocke's house viij*s.*
 Also one house in the Barne-lane ij*s.*
 Richard Wiltbey's house viij*s.*
 Som of these is v*l.* ix*s.*

The chief Rentes of y^e same Landis.
 To Mr. Warburton xv*s.*
 To Mr. Bothe xij*s.*
 To Mr. Witmore ij*s.*
 To the Shearives of Chester xij*s.*

The priestes wagis for vi years and a quarter till iijij*l.* to y^e yeare comes to xxv*l.*

Rebated of this wagis for wante of a prieste at two times, &c. v*s.*”

Here follows a long bill of disbursements for repairs done in several houses in “ Brige-strete, Foreaste-strete, and Fleshemonger's-lane.”

“ Som of all thes wastes and reparasions is *ixl. iiiijs.*

Also there remaineth unpayd for the time of our service, to Goode Geste, widow, and her son's rente, *xxis.*

The som of our accountes, besides the priestes wagis is *viiijl. xixs. id.*

The som of wastes and reparasions of ye landis is *ixl. iiiijs.*

So there remaineth due to us George Leghe and Addam Goodman of this forsayd rente, &c. *iiiijs. xid.*”

LIST OF CURATES, FROM THE REGISTERS.

Randle Smythe, buried Nov. 23, 1581.

Presented, Curates.

1581 George Coney.

1605 James Miller.

1618 Roger Gorst.

William Cooke.

John Hancock.

1694 Robert Buerdsell, M.A.

Presented. Curates.

1700 Thomas Leftwich, M.A.

Nathaniel Leftwich, B.A.

1737 Roger Barnston, M.A.

1783 Joseph Eaton, *sen.* M.A.

1796 Joseph Eaton, *jun.* M.A.

The population in 1821 was 712.—The registers of this parish commence in the year 1581.

MONUMENTS IN ST. MICHAEL'S.

There are very few monumental memorials in this church possessing interest. The following are selected, as alone deserving record :—

On the second pillar from the west end is a tablet inscribed :—“ *Hic jacet corpus Thomæ Chaloner nuper de hac urbe civis quem frater patratus a Trenta in boream, sibi ad diem abitus 14 Maii, anno 1598, surrogat quo magno sui desiderio expiravit.*”

On a neat pyramidal mural monument in the north aisle—“ Near this place rest the remains of Roger Comberbach, esq. late prothonotary of the counties of Cheshire and Flint. His virtues were exemplied in the husband, the father, and the friend. He died March 27, 1771, aged 57. Also, the remains of H. Comberbach, widow of the said Roger Comberbach, esq. who died 8th Oct. 1814, aged 74 years.”

On a blue flag, within the communion rails, “ Here lyeth interred the body of Elizabeth, one of the daughters of sir Richard Wilbraham, kt. and barronet, and late wife of sir Humphrey Brigges, kt. and barronet, by whome she had issue two sons and two daughters, the eldest, a sone, only surviving her. She departed this life the 24th of June, 1659, and in the 37th yeare of her age.”

On the north side of the altar, a tablet with the arms of Venables impaling Leycester, of Toft:—"Near this place lyeth the body of Dame Mary Delves, relict of sir Henry Delves, of Doddington, bart. and daughter of Randle Leicester, of the city of Chester, gent. She died Feb. 1, 1690, aged 68."

On the north wall, a marble tablet, inscribed—"Underneath rest the remains of Joseph Dennil, glazier, who with uprightness and integrity survived the oldest shopkeeper in this city, he died 3d September 1757, aged 72. Also, of John his son, a proctor and public notary, who in a faithful expectation of the triumphant call, died April 3d, 1801, aged 76."*

On the east main pillar, a marble tablet, inscribed—"Near this place lie the remains of Thomas Richardson, esq. late collector, of this city, who departed this life the 1st of July, 1784, aged 60 years."

On the north wall—"Underneath lie the remains of John Smith, who departed this life Dec. 12, 1807, aged 76 years. Also, Elizabeth Smith, wife of the above, who died Feb. 2, 1816, aged 86 years."

On the same side, a neat marble tablet, "Underneath rest the remains of Samuel Humphryes, esq. late prothonotary of the counties of Chester and Flint, oblit July 19, 1822, ætat. 50. In life he was warmly esteemed; in death, deeply regretted."

On a brass plate sunk in the north wall, inscribed—"John Bodvell, of this city, who died vv of Avgvst, 1669.—Peter Bodvell, died the 22 April Also, Peter Bodvell, his son, died 2d October, 1678."

The remains of Thomas Falconer, esq. the celebrated editor of Strabo, lie buried here; also those of Mrs. Adams, formerly of the Feathers inn; of alderman Broadhurst; of William Tomlinson, late of the Royal Hotel, who died April 12, 1830, aged 38 years; of Mr. George Bulkeley. The families of Sir John Williams, Col. Barnston, Comberbach, Whitby, &c. have vaults in this church.

* By the will of this gentleman, it was directed, that the boys taught at the Blue Coat Hospital should follow him to the grave, and sing a psalm, for which service, they were each of them to receive the sum of two-pence! The will of the deceased was partially complied with.



St. Olave's Church.

CHURCH AND PARISH OF ST. OLAVE'S.

St. Olave's church* is situated on the east side of Lower Bridge-street, and opposite Castle-street; it is a perpetual curacy in the gift of the bishop. This church was augmented by queen Anne's bounty in 1726—100*l.* being given by Sir Thomas Hanmer, 50*l.* by Sir Richard Grosvenor, and 50*l.* by the parish. Some years after, thirteen acres of land at Thornton-le-Moors were purchased with the money, and some parochial contributions. In 1771, it was again augmented by 200*l.* for which interest was paid to the Rev. Henry Docksey, who died in 1778, since which time the payment has been withheld. The value of the curacy, arising from augmentation, rent charge, and surplice fees, was returned by the bishop in 1809, as amounting to 42*l.* 1*s.*

* This church takes its name from a king of the Norwegians, who assisted the English against Canute the Dane.—*Cress MSS.*

The precise time of the erection of this church is not known, but there are documents extant which prove it to be of high antiquity. This church was given by Richard Picerna (probably says Mr. Ormerod, ancestor of the Butlers, barons of Warrington), in the time of Richard earl of Chester, to the abbey of St. Werburgh, to which it was confirmed by his charter of 1119, with the land adjoining to the church, and two enclosures in the market-place given by the same. This is also noticed in the following charter, which, according to W. Vernon, is of the date between 1230 and 1234, the original of which is in the possession of W. Hamper, Esq.—“Sciunt, &c. quod ego Rog’us Herre dedi Agneti filie mee ad se maritandam unam mansuram terre q’m Hug. Ulf et Nich. Ulf filius ej’s tenuerunt, illam scill. que est jux’a eccl’iam s’c’i Olavi, quam quidem habui de decano s’c’i Joh’is Baptiste, et de ej’dem loci canonicis. Habend, &c. Redendo inde annuatim duodecim denar. ad festum s’c’i Martini ad communam s’c’i Joh’is Baptiste Cestr. p. om’i sericis et exac’o’e. Haut. f’e’m fuit coram toto portmoto Cestr. Testibus, Will’o de Vernon justic’, Steph’o Fredvell t’c Vic. Will’o Cl’ico Germano Dobelday, Joh’e fil. Ulfkell, Will’o Saraceno, Hamon. Herre, et multis aliis.”—Oval seal of green wax, much defaced, a whole length figure (antique) with circumscription—X SIGILL. R..... ERI HERRR.

The church is a low miserably looking building of red stone, differing but little in its general appearance from the above⁴ fac-simile of a drawing of it taken by Randle Holme about the year 1660. In 1802 a new *wooden* steeple (not much better than a pigeon-cote) was built, covered with lead: the old one was covered with slates. Subsequently to the year 1664, the church fell into disuse, except for baptisms and burials. Bishop Gastrell, in his *Notitia* (1722), observes, “Here is no provision at all for a minister; and although the church be in some tolerable repair, it is not fit for any public service, nor is any performed besides baptism and burial. The minister of St. Michael takes care of the parish at present, and has done so for twenty years past.”

In the year 1819, the inside of the church, which till then was in an unseemly condition, was painted and cleaned, under the direction of the Rev. G. Pearson, then vicar, and has now a clean and comely appearance.

The Rev. Robert Yarker is the present minister of the church.

The following presentations to this church occur in the episcopal registers of Lichfield, when the patronage was in the abbots of St. Werburgh.

RECTORS OF ST. OLAVE'S.

<i>Presented.</i>	<i>Rectors.</i>	<i>Presented</i>	<i>Rectors.</i>
1336	Radulphus de Leghton.	1433	Radulphus Prestbury.
1336	Philippus de Ewyas.	1434	Christophorus Knowles.
1336	Radulphus de Leghton.	1435	Thomas Wevre.
	Thomas de Ewyas.	1444	Willielmus Pentrick.
1351	Ricardus de Wyro.		Laurentius Whalley.
1377	Willielmus de Bromburgh.	1455	Johannes Curcy.
1391	Ricardus Madeley.		

The registers commence in 1611.—In 1821, the population of the parish was only 587.

MONUMENTS, &c.

Close to the communion is a marble tablet, inscribed—" Sacred to the memory of Joseph Dale, of the county of Chester, who died 3d February, 1814, aged 68.—Filial affection raises this tablet to the memory of a deservedly beloved parent."

Near to the above, on the south wall, a tablet, " Sacred to the memory of Anne, wife of Thomas Townshend, esq. She was daughter of George Mainwaring, esq. of Brombrow, by Anne Walcot, of the ancient family of Walcot, of Walcot, in the county of Salop. This excellent person was so amiable in all the relations of life, and so accomplished in its duties, as if her whole attention had been engaged here, and she was so conversant with heaven and the offices of a devout life, as if she was a stranger upon earth, and had an interest only in futurity. She died in the bloom of her years, August 22d, 1774. No one ever better exemplified the words of the apocryphal scripture, ' that honourable age is not that which standeth in length of days, nor that is measured by number of years, but that wisdom is grey hairs unto men, and an unspotted life is old age.' Mary, daughter of Henry Hesketh, esq. the second beloved wife of Thomas Townshend, esq. departed this life Sept. 21st, 1801, aged 56. Also, the above Thomas Townshend, esq. who departed this life, May 27th, 1822, aged 84."

On the same wall, a handsome tablet—"Sacred to the memory of William Corles, of the city of Chester, merchant, who closed an honest and inestimable life on the 14th day of February, 1782, ætat. 52. Also, of Helena, his wife, who followed him, deservedly lamented, on the 14th of February, 1799, aged 56. Filial reverence and affection has erected this tablet to their memories.

On the north wall, a beautiful marble tablet—"Sacred to the memory of Thomas Corles, formerly of the city of Dublin, but late of the city of Chester, merchant, who departed this life the 8th day of April, 1788, aged 60. Also of Margaret his wife, who died on the 26th March, 1790, aged 60. This monument is erected by their nephew William Corles, as a tribute of his affection and gratitude."

In this church are also interred the remains of Joseph Dale, esq. late of Bridge-street; ——— Drake, esq. of Watergate-street; Mrs. Rogers, mother of alderman Rogers, &c. &c.

Having completed the history of our parish churches, this may not be an improper place to offer a few remarks on the scantiness of our burial grounds in this city. What renders their enlargement impracticable is, that they are mostly surrounded on every side by dense buildings. The only exceptions are the parishes of Trinity and St. Bridget's; the former having purchased and inclosed a piece of ground as a place of sepulture near the city gaol, and the latter acquired a capacious church-yard near the castle. In all our other church-yards there is scarcely a square yard of land that has not been tenanted by the dead, whose flesh and bones yet remain undecayed. There is something in this state of things that shocks the firmest mind, and excites an ardent wish that this evil should be remedied. Our neighbours of Liverpool, threatened with a like inconvenience, have wisely applied themselves to the providing suitable receptacles for the dead, equally sequestered from crowded graves, and the busy footsteps of men, and not less rural, than secure from the unhallowed approach of body-stealers. One of these cemeteries is situated at the top of Duke-street, where the funeral service of the church of England is performed over the dead; and the other, near Everton, comprizing four or five acres of ground, which is open to all denominations of persons, and where the rites of sepulture may be performed.

by any dissenting minister, according to the choice of the friends of the deceased. At the entrance of each of these is a neat chapel, and both are surrounded with a lofty wall or pallisading. I can see no reason but something of this kind might be accomplished in Chester. The circumstance of there being but little vacant ground within the walls, ought not to be considered an obstacle ; for it is more desirable to have our cemeteries in the vicinity, rather than in the midst of crowded towns.* Nor can the expence be seriously objected, as an insuperable impediment. Suppose the seven parishes which are short of ground for interment, were each to club its quota, proportionate to its parochial levies, to be liquidated by rates, in the purchase of a piece of land, and the erection of a chapel, wall, &c. the burthen would be comparatively light, while the object attained would be most valuable. Indeed, I am inclined to think, that even as a pecuniary speculation, the project would be one of gain ; for who that holds dear the memory of departed relatives or friends, would object to pay an additional sum for the purchase of a commodious burying place, rather than have their remains huddled together in a crowded church-yard, and placed in contact with the half-decomposed bodies of others. In my estimation the plan suggested will commend itself to the approval of the public generally ; nor am I inclined to believe, that either our venerable bishop or the clergy would be indisposed to it, as it might be so modified as neither to detract from their rights, or diminish their emoluments.

* In ancient times, none were buried in churches or church-yards : it was even unlawful to inter in cities, and the cemeteries were without the walls. Among the primitive christians, these were held in great veneration. It even appears from Eusebius and Tertullian, that in the early ages, they assembled for divine worship in the cemeteries. Valerian seems to have confiscated the cemeteries and other places of divine worship, but they were restored again by Gallienus. As the martyrs were buried in these places, the Christians chose them for building churches on, when Constantine established their religion ; and hence some derive the rule, which still obtains in the church of Rome, never to consecrate an altar, without putting under it the relics of some saint.

Parochial Bequests.

Legacies to St. Oswald's Parish.

There have been but few legacies left to the poor of this parish, some of which have been lost through the negligence of parish officers, and others have been, in my estimation, criminally and illegally diverted from their legitimate object. In the year 1729, before the house of industry was built, and previous to the incorporation of the nine parishes, each parish maintained its poor in a building within its own precincts. There is an entry in the church books of St. Oswald's, of the above date, from which it appears, that the sum of £227. 6s. "being part of the public stock or fund of, and belonging to that part of the parish of St. Oswald's, within the liberty of the city of Chester," and which had been derived from bequests to the poor, was laid out in the purchase of premises at the end of Windmill-lane in George's-street, now held by Mr. B. Brassey, as a nail manufactory, and became the parish work-house. For this purpose it was used until the erection of the house of industry in 1757; but it does not appear, that in the intermediate space between the purchase and the latter period, nor from that time to the present, the poor of the parish have received a sixpence in charity from the funds thus alienated. The rent now received from these premises is £30. per annum, which is appropriated to paying the clerk and sexton, or applied *in aid of the church rates!* I do not think myself competent to give an opinion whether this property might be recovered to the poor; but I shall find very few reasonable men who will dissent from me in affirming, that the present mode of its application is neither consonant with fidelity to the dead, or equity to the living. By referring to the legacies of St. John's parish it will be seen, that the interest of a sum of money appropriated to a similar purpose has been recovered, and is now paid from the church rates, according to the intention of the humane benefactors.

Ten shillings a year, bequeathed by will to the poor, and secured upon a farm at Huntington, has been suffered to remain unpaid for the last twenty-eight years; upon this legacy, therefore, £14. is now due, and it is proper the churchwardens should take steps at least for its future punctual payment.

The churchwardens distribute annually to the poor, the sum of 30s. the joint legacies of — Green, and — Brereton, which in fact is the whole amount those officers have at their disposal.

Edward Russell, a proctor of Chester, by will dated 27th June, 1666, left £2. 10s. per annum to twelve poor persons of the parish, which is given in bread every Sunday throughout the year; also, 10s. a year to the minister for a sermon to be preached on the 2nd of March; and likewise, 15s. a year to the choristers of the church, to be paid on St. Chad's-day.—These three legacies are regularly paid by Mr. John Wood Massey.

The parish of St. Oswald is at this time (Sept. 1830) engaged in a legal litigation with the out-townships, which threatens disagreeable results, one of which, at least, is certain, namely, considerable expence. This contest originates in the refusal of the latter to pay certain church rates, rendered necessary by expenses incurred in the repairs and beautifying of the church, and the erection of a new gallery, in 1826. Among the grounds of refusal are, a denial of being legally comprehended within the parish, and, the illegality of the demand, the money being expended before the rates were granted, in contravention of an act of parliament. In the first instance, proceedings were commenced by the parish in the ecclesiastical court against Mr. Jones, chemist, of Great Boughton, to compel payment of the levy. Though this gentleman is the ostensible defendant in the cause, the principal land-owners in the out-parishes have made common cause with him; and subscriptions have been entered into to defend the suit. Application has been made in the King's Bench, and a rule *nisi* obtained, to remove the cause into that court, and here the question must be finally settled, unless some compromise takes place, which at present seems extremely improbable. If, however, the points in dispute should be ultimately referred to "*the glorious uncertainty*," it is likely, more money will be expended in the conflict by the parties, than the whole amount of the church-rates for a century to come.—Another individual ley-payer or two, *within the parish*, have also formally signified their intention of resisting the rate, because, as they allege, St. Oswald's, as being part of the cathedral, is not legally *the parish church*. It is not for me to say, whether this ground of objection be valid; but even if it should be proved so, the parish will be under little obligation to these *Solomons*. For, should they be able to prosecute their purposes to a successful issue, the consequence would necessarily be, that our ecclesiastical rulers would *compel* the parishioners to *build* a parish church, and thus entail an expense upon them, of perhaps not less than *six or eight thousand pounds*.

Legacies to St. John's Parish.

The legacies belonging to this parish are rather numerous; the following is the present state of them:—

John Brereton, by his will dated 8th of April, 1681, left one pound to be given to twenty poor persons, which is paid by the Treasurers of the city to the Churchwardens, on the 4th of May annually.

John Stockton and Eleanor his wife by will and deed dated 1608 and 1710, left eleven shillings to the poor, the former six shillings, and the latter five shillings, payable off Mr. Kenrick's garden near the Groves, due 18th October yearly.

Henry Smith, Esq. left in trust to the Governors of Christ's Hospital a large sum, which he directed to be divided annually amongst certain parishes in various parts of the kingdom. St. John's, St. Michael's, and St. Mary's

in this city were fortunate enough to be of the number. The manor of Stoughton, in the county of Leicester, is the present source from whence the legacy is derived, through the agency of Messrs. Bray and Warren, of Great Russel-street, Bloomsbury. It is due at Michaelmas, and paid at Christmas yearly.—The sum received by St. John's last year was £14 18s. 7d. and was distributed in shoes, clogs, provisions, and clothes, amongst 121 individuals.

Edward Batho, alderman, charged a messuage (now the property of Mr. John Seller) in Foregate-street, with 10 shillings to the vicar for a sermon at St. John's, on the Epiphany, and 20s. to be paid to the poor at 6d. each. It is due on the 6th of January, and is received and distributed annually.

The said Edward Batho also left twenty shillings to be paid off Huntington Lower Meadow, to be given in bread on the first Sunday in every month. This legacy is due at Lady-day, and ten loaves, value two pence each, are given to poor persons as directed.—The said Edward Batho also bequeathed a further sum of ten shillings, payable off the Owler Hall lands in Huntington, to be given to nine poor persons, and the clerk one shilling each. This is also due at Lady-day.

Peter Leadbeater bequeathed one pound six shillings a year to be given in bread to six poor persons every Sunday for ever. This legacy is paid by the parishioners, they having appropriated the principal money of £26. to the use of the parish, and the six loaves are given as directed.

— Harvey left fifteen pounds, the interest to be given to the poor for ever. The principal (like the former legacy) having been made use of by the parishioners to assist in purchasing the herbage of the church-yard in 1794, the parishioners pay fifteen shillings a year to the poor at Easter.

The following legacies were also appropriated by the parish about a century ago, not as has been stated by one or two historians, in the erection of a gallery in the church, but in employing the poor and maintaining a parish workhouse before the nine parishes were incorporated :—

Mr. Whitley's of.....	£34	Mr. Jellico's of.....	£10
Mr. Bridge's.....	5	Mrs. Salmon's.....	10
Mr. Phillips's.....	5	Ditto second.....	10
Mr. Denson's.....	5	Mr. Radford's.....	10
Mr. Lawrence Woods.....	5	Mr. Cotton's.....	10
Mrs. Mary Woods.....	5	Booth's & Swarbrook's....	15
Mr. Cows'.....	20	Mr. Finchett's.....	13
Mr. Nield's.....	10	Mr. Fletcher's.....	12
Mr. Godsall's.....	10	Mr. Aldersey's.....	10

In all £199. The interest whereof, say £9. 19s. is secured by decree of the Bishop, dated the 4th of January, 1803, and directed to be paid out of the south gallery seat rents; and it is given to the poor by the Churchwardens on or about Lady-day yearly.

Thomas Wilcock's legacy is the most important one, being an entire estate at Willaston, in the hundred of Wirral, part secured by will and the remainder by deed. It was first made chargeable under the will with £20 a year to the three following parishes, in the proportions annexed, viz :

PAROCHIAL BEQUESTS.

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St. John's	£14	9	8
St. Bridget's	2	14	2
Neston	2	16	2

which was directed to be distributed as follows, to 40 poor housekeepers, one shilling a piece on St. John's day, St. Michael's day, New Year's Day, and Good Friday, for ever. To 24 poor persons he left a loaf to be given upon every Sunday throughout the year for ever; to the Minister for a Sermon on Good Friday, 15s.; to the Clerk 3s. 4d.; to the Churchwardens 2s.; and five shillings to be paid upon auditing the accounts. The residue, which is held in trust under this deed, each parish having three trustees, being considerably increased, is consequently more beneficial to the poor and other legatees, who continue to receive annually the produce of it, which is divided in the proportion of

£.	s.	d.	
0	14	5	in the pound to St. John's.
0	2	9	..... St. Bridget's.
0	2	10	..... Neston.
<hr/>			
£1	0	0	
<hr/>			

Eighteen poor persons of this parish, in common with the poor of all the other parishes, except that of St. Olave, receive in rotation one penny in bread, and three-pence in money (Offley's legacy) from the Churchwardens of St. Peter's.

Thirteen poor persons of this parish also receive in annual rotation with a like number of poor of the other parishes, a prayer-book each, being a legacy left by the late Mr. Cotton.

Mrs. Helena Salmon left a Guinea a year to the Minister for a Sermon on the 27th of December yearly, 2s. 6d. to the Clerk, and 2s. to the Sexton. These legacies are at present paid by Mrs. Richardson, of Capenhurst, the late owner of a house in St. John's-street, formerly occupied by Mr. George Harrison, surgeon, upon which they were charged. This house was a few years since taken down, and the land upon which it stood is added to the garden of the Bank of Messrs. Williams, Hughes, & Granville.

In this parish there are four alms-houses for old parishioners, situate in Little St. John-street, built by Mrs. Dighton Salmon, in 1738, but they have no endowment. In the front of them is this inscription:—"These alms-houses were rebuilt and enlarged at the sole expence of Mrs. Dighton Salmon, of this parish."—The property of Earl Grosvenor joins the south end of these houses. In some alterations made when rebuilding, it was alleged that an encroachment had been made upon them; and a reference being agreed upon, it was awarded that his lordship should pay twenty shillings a year to be distributed amongst the inmates.

Legacies to St. Peter's Parish.

William Crompton, of Kinnerton, Flintshire, by will dated 1709, left one half of his lands and messuages at Higher Kinnerton, to the poor of St. Peter's parish, under the direction of the mayor and aldermen of Chester. In the year 1810, this land was valued at £18. a year, and leased at that sum for twenty-one years to William Richards, Esq. ; a survey and map of this estate was made by J. Calveley, in the year 1775, which is now preserved in the church. This legacy is paid regularly in the vestry of the church, by the minister and two senior aldermen.

Alderman Henry Bennett, who died 1715, did by will of 17th Feb. 1708, and proved 30th March, 1715, bequeath to the poor of this parish the sum of £25. the interest to be paid by his executor to 12 poor old widows every Christmas. This bequest was, with his other legacies, charged on his real estate, given to his son and executor, Henry Bennett, who died in 1741. It seems this legacy was never paid into the parish, but remained charged on his real estate at Whitby ; also, that instead of the bequest of 2s. 1d. to each widow, the family were in the habit of giving 2s. 6d. to each of the 12 widows. At this time it appears, that 32s. is paid, the cause unknown, to the churchwardens of this parish, every Christmas, from the former estate of Henry Bennett, at Whitby, by the present owner, Earl Grosvenor.

Mr. Witter, of Frodsham, left £1. a year, charged on a shop and house on the west side of Higher Bridge-street, which is regularly paid.

Mr. Cooper left 52s. a year to the poor in bread, and 8d. a-piece to the clerk and sexton, for distributing the same ; charged on the Old Talbot, and now paid by the occupier of the Royal Hotel.

Mr. Hugh Offley, by will of May 14th, 1596, left a penny-loaf, and three-pence to twelve poor people on the first Sunday in every month to the eight city parishes in succession (St. Olave's being the one omitted), and six-pence-halfpenny each to the clerk and sexton of St. Peter's, for its distribution ; now paid by the city treasurer. Also, by the same officer,

Ten shillings yearly, left by Mr. Brereton, and paid on St. George's-day.

There have been several other legacies left to this parish, but the above are all that are now available to the poor.

Legacies to Trinity Parish.

The poor of this parish have been favoured with numerous bequests, as recorded on various tablets in the church, but many of these have been lost from the negligence of those, whose duty was to see them properly distributed. At the present time, the following only are still applied according to the directions of the donors :—

Peter Ince, stationer, gave by will, dated July 12th, in the 20th year of king Charles, 52 shillings yearly, for ever, to be given in bread to poor people attending church. Charged upon the cellar of the house in which he lived.

John Brereton, alderman, gave ten shillings a year to the poor, paid on St. George's-day, by the city treasurer.

Robert Fletcher, of Cork, son of William Fletcher, of this city, draper, gave in 1674, two new houses with £4. a year for four poor widows, and 4s. a year to repair the houses for ever,* charged upon a house on the west side of Lower Bridge-street, formerly occupied by Mrs. Hunt. The appointment of pensioners is vested in the proprietors of the house charged; but if they neglect putting in a tenant for twenty days, then the selection rests with the parish officers.

Thomas Kenyon, carpenter, by will of July 19th, 1711, bequeathed all his real and personal estate, in trust, for the use of twelve poor widows of Trinity parish, the product to be distributed every 10th day of June, for ever. The above Thomas Kenyon charged his property with his debts and some small legacies, which were paid off with some parish bequests, the real estate being retained and much improved. The property when left, consisted of two houses with a stable, and yard, on the west side of Linen-hall-street; also a barn, stable, and garden, on the east side of the said street. These premises, now composing nine tenements, let for the sum of £59.

Alderman Henry Bennett left the sum of £25. to this parish, and under the same regulations as his bequest to St. Peter's. In the records of Trinity, it is seen, that in 1715, this legacy was at a vestry meeting ordered to be paid in, to discharge a debt due upon Kenyon's houses; which order, however, does not appear to have been attended to, and was indeed at variance with the provisions of Mr. Bennett's will. The interest of the above sum, therefore, is legally chargeable on the real estate, and is now paid by Earl Grosvenor, as mentioned in St. Peter's charities.

John Grosvenor, Esq. by will, dated 27th of May, 1699, left £3. a year, to be paid to ten decayed housekeepers of the parish, charged upon his house, garden, and premises in Watergate-street, late the property and residence of William Currie, M.D. and now belonging to Henry Potts, Esq.

ALMS-HOUSES.—The family of Mainwaring founded alms-houses in Trinity-street for three poor widows, with an allowance of £1. 7^s ana. each. They are appointed by the descendants of the founder, the Mainwarings of Bromborough.

There are also twelve alms-houses, situated at the bottom of New Crane-street, within this parish, founded by the present Earl Grosvenor, for as many decayed freemen, who receive 2s. 6d. each, weekly.

* These alms-houses are situated at the bottom of King's Buildings; a slab in the front bears the following inscription:—“The gift of Robert Fletcher, of Corke, in Ireland, gent. the fourth son of William Fletcher, of this city of Chester, to 4 poor widdows of sixty years old, of the parish of Trinitie, and 20 shillings to be paid each of them yearly by the quarter, and 4 shillings yearly to repair these houses for ever. Anno Domini 1674.”

Legacies to St. Martin's Parish.

This parish has shared but very scantily in the bounty of our benevolent ancestors, the benefactions being comprized in the following short list :—

Robert Shone, tallow-chandler, formerly sheriff of Chester, left 20s. to be distributed to the poor every Good Friday ; 20s. to the minister ; 20s. to the churchwardens for repairs of the church ; and 10s. to the clerk annually, for ever ; all which are charged on the Middle Rake Hay, in the parish of Hawarden, and regularly received and duly applied.

Mr. Terry left 20s. to the poor, and 10s. to the minister, to be paid every Easter Monday, for ever ; charged on a house near Glover's Stone.

Mr. John Longdale left £10. the interest to be given to the poor on Christmas-day, for ever.

Legacies to St. Mary's Parish.

Various small sums have been bequeathed to the poor of this parish, as appears on the tablets in the church, but few remain at present.

Ten shillings is paid on St. George's day yearly to the poor, by the city treasurer, being what is called Brereton's legacy.

Twelve shillings a year, paid by Lord Grosvenor, probably from property charged with it, now in his Lordship's possession.

This parish, (in conjunction with those of St. John's and St. Michael's) receives its quota from Henry Smith's legacy, secured on the manor of Stoughton, in Leicestershire. (*See legacies in St. John's*). The amount of this to Mary's parish, since the year 1815 has varied from £4. 11s. 0d. to £11. 17s. 6d. per annum, which last sum was paid the last year. The amount is distributed to the poor parishioners in bread.

The galleries were erected with several sums derived from legacies, amounting to £78. the interest of which at five per cent. (£3. 18s. 0d.) is divided among the poor, as directed by the benefactors ; and as the galleries produce no rental from seats, the amount is taken from the church-rate. Until 1822, there was a rental produced by the letting of seats.

Legacies to St. Bridget's.

This parish is included in the receipt of Wilcock's legacy, arising from an estate at Willaston, which at the time of its being bequeathed, produced only £20. a year, but is now let for nearly £100. per annum.—The quota of this parish from the product is 2s. 9d. in the pound, and the net receipt last year was £11. which was laid out in bread for the poor.

The parish possesses a close of land in Hoole-lane, called the Croft, now let for £5. 5s. the amount of which is given to fourteen individuals on the list of the poor. This land was purchased by legacies left by Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Bailey, Mrs. Salmon, and Mrs. Swarbrook.

An estate at Trafford, purchased for £300. from the sale of houses left by Mr. Harrison, brewer; the produce of this estate was formerly distributed at the discretion of Mr. alderman Dyson, but is now directed by Mr. Barker, solicitor, who distributed to ten poor parishioners as the last half-year's receipts, 35s. each.

Mrs. Hannah Griffiths, by will dated 13th Nov. 1786, left £50. to the churchwardens to buy bread for the poor, with the interest, every Christmas-eve, for ever. With this money £100. three $\frac{3}{4}$ cent. consols was purchased in 1798, in the name of William Thomas and William Massey, Esqrs. but owing to the want of common precaution in not renewing the trustees, the money has been lost to the parish.

Recorder Townshend left two pounds a year, charged on a house now the property of Bell Ince, Esq. Several other trifling sums are also distributed to the poor.

The alms-houses for freemen's widows in Commonhall-street, are situated in this parish, but they are not confined to the parishioners. These houses were formerly the hospital of St. Ursula; they were founded in 1532, by the executors of Roger Smith, for six poor decayed persons, who had been aldermen and common council-men, or their widows, and in default of any such, for other poor persons. In 1540, the guild of St. Ursula gave 30d. a year to this hospital; they are now occupied by the widows of freemen, who receive a donation of £1. 6s. 8d. each, which is paid by the corporation.*

Legacies to St. Michael's Parish.

There is no parish within the city so plentifully endowed with parochial bequests, whether as regards their number or value, as this.

Doctor Robert Oldfield, by his will of 24 April, 1695, devised his two third parts of Dunham Hall, and other messuages, cottages, lands, &c. at Dunham-on-the-hill, in the county of Chester, together with other lands near Chester, to certain trustees in his said will named, for the purpose "of paying £20. a year to the minister of St. Michael's church, in Chester, in augmentation of his yearly maintenance, if his trustees for the time being, or the major part of them, shall approve of such minister, when he is duly instituted and inducted, and if it happen that he hath no other ecclesiastical preferment, and actually officiated in preaching constantly there; and for the purpose of applying the residue of the interest money, &c. (after payment of the necessary expences) to and for the preferment of one or more poor boy or boys born in the said parish of St. Michael, towards putting

* What is said, in noticing St. Mary's parish (page 102) would seem to imply, that the whole of Handbridge is comprehended therein. This, however, is by no means the fact, a considerable portion of that suburb being included in the parish of St. Bridget. In that district, this parish commences on the east side of the road just beyond the toll-gate: takes in the north side of Mill-street; includes all the houses leading to the Bottoms-lane; the lands on the left hand bounded by the Dee; stretches to the extremity of the farm occupied by Messrs. Jones and Herbert, and comprehends what is commonly called the Earl's Eye. It is from this portion of the parish, that St. Bridget's derives a great portion of its rates.

“ them forth to trades, or towards maintaining them at universities, if apt to “ learn.” A sufficient number of proper objects do not every year present themselves, and the revenues therefore have (under the judicious management of the trustees) accumulated, so that the annual income of the trust property is now about £320. The present trustees are Roger Barnston, Henry Hesketh, W. M. Thackeray, M.D. and G. B. Granville, Esquires. The following is a correct statement of the last year’s produce of this property, September, 1830 :—

Dunham Hall farm and cottages	£113
Farm (late Antrobus’s)	119
Lands in Boughton	133
Dividends on £2000 stock in three $\frac{1}{2}$ cent. consols	60
	<hr/>
	425
Less by allowances to tenants for improvements, repairs, law charges, agency, &c. about	105
	<hr/>
Clear income applicable to the Trusts of Dr. Oldfield’s will	£320
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The alms-houses in Pepper-street were erected by William Jones, late of the Middle Temple, esq. and by deed dated 10 July, 1658, a certain messuage and shops near St. Michael’s church, and a field in Claverton, within the liberties of the city, were conveyed to trustees for their use and support, to which he afterwards added certain lands within the borough of Holt, in the county of Denbigh; these alms-houses admit ten persons, six women and four men, all to be above 55 years old, unmarried, decayed, and impotent, being past labour, and who frequent the church and public worship of God upon the Lord’s-day and holidays, and are not scandalous by holding blasphemous, heretical or any schismatical opinions, contrary to the ancient and orthodox faith of the church of England and its discipline, and are not in conversation guilty of any gross sins or vices, as adultery, fornication, drunkenness, swearing, railing, or the like, but are reputed to be of honest conversation. The poor of St. Michael’s parish are to be preferred on any vacancy, unless there happens to be two persons belonging to that parish already in possession of the houses. The revenues of this charity have been variable, as the value of the lands has increased or otherwise; and are expected to be improved on the expiration of a lease, dated August, 1755, granted by the trustees for the time being, of the said messuage and shops, for the term of 99 years, at the rent of £14. 10s. in consideration of the sum of £350, to be laid out in rebuilding and improving the premises demised. The present trustees are the Rev. Joseph Eaton, A.M. F.S.A. ordained minister; Roger Barnston, Robert Baxter, Thomas Dixon, G. B. Granville, William Yate, Esquires; W. M. Thackeray, M.D.

Philip Philips, alderman of this city, by will dated July 5th, 1611, left a shop in Eastgate-street, which then let for 40s. a year. From neglect of the parishioners, this bequest has dwindled to, and now only claimed as a rent charge. This sum has been paid since 1819 by Earl Grosvenor, who has become possessed of the property; it is appropriated to the poor by the churchwardens.

Henry Smith, of London, included this parish, with those of St. John and St. Mary, in his annual valuable bequest. (*See St. John's Legacies.*)

It is now more productive than formerly; the sum received by this parish as its quota for the year 1829, and paid February, 1830, amounted to £12. 9s.

Jonathan Goldson, by will of March 10th, 1679, left £15. once in every three years, to put forth a freeman's son of this parish apprentice. This bequest is chargeable on four houses in Pepper-street. In 1694, an additional £2. every three years was added by Joseph Basnet, as an augmentation, and charged on his estate in the parish, which is now the property of Mr. Owen Foulkes. Neither of these legacies have been received for many years past; but it is believed the parish officers have it in contemplation to enforce their payment.

George Bulkeley, Sept. 25th, 1688, left the sum of £100. vested in trustees, who are to pay the interest to the minister, but in case of a vacancy, the interest thence arising to be given to the poor of St. Michael and St. Bridget, by the churchwardens of those parishes. He also left £50. towards building a new steeple, which was received by the parish in 1708.

William Proby, left April 3rd, 1716, 12s. a year, charged on a field in Handbridge, called Cook's Croft, paid to the churchwardens by Thomas Evans, of Saltney.

Lettice Whitley left a house on the east side of Bridge-street (now tenanted by Mr. Swarbrick, bookseller, and commonly called the parsonage house) to the minister and his successors for ever, and charged the cellar under the same with 10s. a year for the clerk, and 5s. for the sexton for ever. By her will in 1706, this house is left to Mr. Brereton; paying £4. a year to the minister; but in a codicil, dated July 3, 1706, the minister is to have the house, and the cellar only is reserved to Mr. Brereton, paying the clerk and sexton, which by the will lay on the premises at large.

Peter Cotton left in 1716, thirteen large prayer-books to the poor of the nine parishes of the city, in rotation. Paid by the mayor of Chester for the time being, and received by this parish in 1829.

Timothy Dean left March 20, 1726, £50. in aid of Goldson's legacy. This was in the hands of Mr. Philip Prestbury, who died insolvent about seventeen years ago, and the legacy entirely lost.

The Rev. Thomas Leftwich left May 10th, 1746, £10. the interest to be laid out by the minister and churchwardens, in a bible, value 4s. 6d.; prayer book, 2s.; Duty of Man, 2s. 6d.; Preparation for the Sacrament, 1s.; and given every year to one poor housekeeper.

Hannah Leftwich bequeathed £40. the interest to be given to eight old maids yearly.

These two legacies, with one of £40. left by Mrs. Elizabeth Potter, to ten poor persons in the alms-houses, were in the year 1789 called in, and vested in the purchase of a shop in the street, under the house belonging to this parish, on the north side of the church.

John Matthews (Capt. R. N.) who died in 1798, left £350. of three per cent. consols, the interest to put apprentice a poor child born in this parish; now vested in the names of the Rev. J. Eaton, and Mr. T. Dicus (now Leacroft).

Legacies to St. Olave's Parish.

Many small charitable bequests of five and ten pounds to the poor, have been sunk in the erection of a gallery ; the parish pays the interest for the money.

Elizabeth Booth, by will dated 7th February, 1732, left £10. a year to the minister of St. Olave's for ever, charged on her house and premises in the parish, now occupied by Mr. Willoughby, as the Albion Hotel.

The Rev. Benjamin Culm, a native of Chester, and minister of the parish, by will June 11th, 1714, left £100. the interest to be applied to put apprentices the children of poor people, who did not receive alms. This money, with some accumulating interest, and £20. added as a legacy by Mrs. Aubrey, has been vested in the purchase of £163. 13s. 3d. stock navy five $\frac{1}{2}$ cents.—For several years there have been but very few applicants for this charity, the reason of which is, because there is scarcely a single poor family in the parish, who have not been forced to apply for parochial assistance.

Robert Harvey, alderman of Chester, built six alms-houses in the parish of St. Olave, for six poor persons, and endowed them with a fourth and a eighth of the Water-tower, in Bridge-gate, which being sold to Messrs. Hawkins and Headley, engineers of the water-works, in 1692, for £100. ; the sum was again vested in the concern, and now yields £6. a year, which is paid in equal proportions to the poor inmates.

EXTRA PAROCHIAL.

Little St. John's.

The Chapel of ST. JOHN'S, commonly called Little St. John's, is situated in an extra-parochial spot on the north-west side of, and near to, the Northgate, without the city walls. It is a perpetual curacy, in the patronage of the corporation.

This chapel is of great antiquity. In the 15th of Edward III. a writ was directed to the justice of Chester to take into his hands the lands and rents of the hospital of St. John the Baptist, without the Northgate, by virtue of which an inquisition was held of twelve citizens of Chester, by whom it was found :—" That the said Hospital was founded by Randal duke of Brittany, and earl of Chester and Richmond, in honour of God, the Virgin, and St. John the Baptist, for the sustentation of poore and sillie persons, and granted in pure and perpetual almes ; that the same was confirmed by Henry III. and that Edward I. when earl of Chester, gave the keeping of the said hospital to the Prior of Birkenhead and his successors, and the lord earl of Chester is now advocate of the said hospital, the revenues of which are as follow :—

A sum given by Randal earl of Chester, paying yearly at the	
exchequer	4 7 0
Houses in the city of Chester	8 13 10.

A grange at the Helme houses, held in exchange from the prior of Birkenhead by the abbot of Chester.....	0	40	0
A grange at Le Moune, in the co. of Lancaster.....	2	0	0
A drye rente in Pensbye.....	0	18	4
A house in Handbridge, and half an oxgang in the Cleys ..	0	40	0
A Wich-house in Wich Malbank	0	13	4
Other rents belonging to the hospital	0	13	4

And all the lands belonging to the hospital are worth per ann. xxviijl. tijs. xd.

And that there ought to be, and have accustomed to be, in the said hospital, three chaplains to say mass daily, two in the church, and the third in the chapel, before the poor and feeble sustained in the said hospital; and that one lamp ought to be sustained at mass every day in the said hospital, and to burn every night in the whole year; and that thirteen beds competently clothed should be sustained in the said hospital, and receive thirteen poor men of the same city, whereof each shall have for dally allowance, a loaf of bread, a dish of pottage, half a gallon of competent ale, and a piece of fish or flesh, as the day shall require.—*Harl. MSS.* 2159. 104.

On xxi 2 Henry v. the king granted the master, brethren, and sisters of this hospital, and their tenants, an acquittance of all juries, offices, and recognizances, and from all customs and assises of bread, and all suits to courts, amercements, &c. through the county of Chester.

In the reign of Edward iiii. only one chaplain, and six poor widows were maintained in this hospital. In the reign of Henry viii. the corporation remonstrated with the prior of Birkenhead, for not maintaining the full complement of pensioners; but he returned for answer, that the revenues were insufficient.

The chapel and hospital were destroyed during the civil wars, but were rebuilt by col. Roger Whitley, to whom King Charles ii. granted the hospital estate for his life, and twenty years after. When the city charter was renewed, February 4th, 1685, in the 37th Charles ii. the reversion was granted to the mayor and citizens for ever. Col. Whitley died in 1697, and the corporation obtained possession in 1703, who, as patrons have since presented. The Rev. Wm. Clarke is the present minister, who, in addition to the usual divine service on the forenoon of the sabbath, has established a Wednesday evening. lecture. The prescribed duties of the minister, contained in a parchment book, kept at the Exchange, are, that the sacrament shall be administered on the Nativity, Easter-day, Whitsunday, and the last Sunday in September. To these four appointed times for administering the sacred ordinance, Mr. Clarke has added (in consequence of the increase of the communicants, and with the concurrence of the corporation and the bishop) three others, making in all seven times. The same document also says, that the minister may be required to preach before the mayor and corporation on the day of election, and on All Saints Day.

In the chapel-yard are six alms-houses, occupied by poor widows, called "the Sisters;" they are selected by the corporation, and receive a pension of £1. 6d. 8d. each, and some perquisites.—Joseph Crewe, esq. alderman of Chester, who died in 1801, bequeathed £30. per annum, to be distributed among them in equal proportions.

In the census of 1821, the inhabitants of this district are joined with those of the cathedral precincts, whose numbers were 270.—The value of augmentation and stipend was returned by the bishop of Chester, in 1809, as only £18.

New Church at Boughton.

The township of Boughton is a populous suburb of the city, the extremity of which is at the distance of at least a mile from the nearest church. This, in conjunction with other considerations, suggested the necessity of a place of worship there, under the national establishment; and several very respectable individuals seemed disposed to further so desirable an object. The scheme was warmly patronized by bishop Blomfield, under whose sanction an appeal was made to the public generosity, in which is the following passage:—"The prevalence of ignorance and vice amongst the lower orders in the populous neighbourhood of Boughton, has long been a subject of concern to many religious and charitable persons. It is impossible to pass through the place, without observing the symptoms of irreligion and disorder. Amongst the causes which may be assigned for this lamentable state of things, one of the most obvious is, the disregard and neglect of religious ordinances, attributable to the want of a religious place of worship in that neighbourhood, where the poorer inhabitants might be edified and instructed by the scriptural services of the church." According to the last census, the population of St. John's parish exceeded 5000, and at present it cannot fall much short of 6000 persons. There was only one church in the parish, and in it very few seats for the poor of the immediate neighbourhood; whilst the distance at which it is situated from the populous district of Boughton, would of itself be a sufficient impediment to the attendance of the inhabitants, even if they could be accommodated. It was therefore highly necessary that a new church should be erected; the plan of which was, that it should be made to contain 700 or 800 persons, and that one-half of the sittings should be free to the poor; it was also calculated, that as the church building society contribute at the rate of £1. for every free sitting, about £400. might be expected from that excellent institution.

The first subscription to promote the object was set on foot by bishop Blomfield. The subscriptions, however, came in but tardily, until a regular committee was formed, under the presidency of bishop Sumner, in January, 1829. Having raised a sum sufficient to justify them in commencing the work, and obtained a grant of land from the mayor and corporation, the first stone was laid in 1830. Mr. Cole's contract amounted to £1967. for building a church and Sunday school under. It is calculated, however, that a further expence of about £500. will be incurred for a wall, iron railing, bell, stove, communion plate, books, &c. &c. making altogether about £2467.

To meet this—

Subscriptions have been received, amounting to about ..	£1100
The church building society give	400
Expected drawback on building materials	400—1900
Leaving a deficiency of	£567

As there are several respectable individuals in the city and neighbourhood of Chester, who have not yet contributed to the object, it is hoped that the above sum will eventually be raised, so as to save the committee harmless, upon whom the labour has fallen.

The church is a large brick building, erected on the declivity of a bank on the south-side of the road in Boughton, near to Barrel-wall, under which are suitable conveniences for a Sabbath-school. The church is calculated to hold 700 persons, there being 400 free sittings. The salary of the minister will be paid from the pew rents alone, as there is no endowment to the church, which in fact will be in the nature of a chapel of ease to St. John's. It is expected that the church will be consecrated during the present month (October, 1830).

Hospitals, Monastic Establishments, Chantries, Chapels, &c.

[Chiefly from Ormerod.]

Hospital of St. Giles.

At the east end of Foregate-street, in a small extra-parochial district, called Spital Boughton, is the site of a hospital for lepers, founded here by earl Randal Blundeville, and dedicated to St. Giles. The founder gave to the abbey of St. Werburgh, among his other grants, a rent charge of x shillings, issuing from lands held under him by Geoffry de Sibesey, "*de quibus dicti monachi solvent leprosis de Boughton xx denarios, et de residuo poscent e pauperes, in die nativitatis patris sui, infra abbotiam Cestræ.*"

To this hospital also, Robert le Chamberlain gave three stalls in Dee, under the seal of Chester exchequer, "*infirmis fratribus hospitalis S'c'i Egidii de Boghton.*" The hospital had also a rent of xxs. paid by the chamberlain of Chester, allowed in his general account of the profits of the shire, under the head of antiquæ eleemosynæ.

The privileges of the hospital were confirmed by Hugh-Kevelioc, and Edward III. and are stated in a plea to a quo warranto, 15 Hen. VII. the original of which is in Chester exchequer, and a copy is extant in Harl. MSS. 2115, and in Vernon's MSS. in the library at Somerford.*

The names of the wardens or masters that have occurred, are, Rogerus, 26 Edw. I.; Radulphus de Hole, 30 Edw. I.; Ranulphus de Bebington, 32 Edw. I.; Matthæus de Hole, 2 Edw. II.; Robertus Vickars, 22 Hen. VI.; David Barra, 31 Hen. VI.

During the civil wars, as has been before observed, the hospital and chapel were entirely destroyed. King Charles II. in 1685 granted the site, and lands belonging to this hospital, to the corporation: the former is used

* The claims were as follow:—Certain toll from every thing carried to sale at Chester market. One handful from every sack of wheat, vetches, or barley, and two handfuls from every sack of oats or malt, carried either on a horse or cart, or in any other way; and of wheat, vetches, barley, oats, salt fish, produce of any other kind, and particularly salt, one handful from a sack, and two from a cart; one cheese from every horse load or cart load of cheese; one salmon from every horse or cart load; and in other fish, such as sparlings, flukes, eels, &c. five from every horse's pannier, and one from every man's load. From fruits of trees, one double handful from each horse load, and three double handfuls from each cart load. From fruits of the earth, whether horse loads or cart loads, one handful. From all packages of earthen ware, one piece of the same; to have one horse from the horse fair; and from all carts drawn by oxen or horses carrying wood or brick, one piece of the same. To have also one boat with a fisherman above or below Dee bridge, with stallnette, flotnette, or dragnette, or any other kind of netts, night and day, and three stalls in Dee, called single lyne stables, and not to be amenable to the justice, sheriff, or other officer of the prince, except in the court of the hospital aforesaid. In this plea are recited two charters of Randal Blundeville.

as a church-yard, dependent upon St. John's parish, to the present day, in which are mingled all the remains that could be collected of George Marsh, who was burnt here for his adherence to the reformed religion, in 1555.—The burial ground of the Spital is now the property of Mr. Joseph Carter, sexton of St. John's parish, in right of his wife, whose ancestors have had it in possession for more than a century and a half.

Benedictine Nunnery of St. Mary.

The following notice of a monastery dedicated to St. Mary occurs in Domesday :—“ In monasterio sanctæ Mariæ, quod est juxta ecclesiam sancti Johannis jacent duæ bovatae terræ quæ wastæ erant, et modo sunt wastæ.”

This monastery has been generally supposed to have merged in a nunnery, to which Randal Gernons, fourth earl of Chester, granted lands by the following charter, for the nuns to build a church upon. There is no evidence on this subject from which any thing conclusive can be drawn ; and it must be left altogether to conjecture, whether the monastery referred to continued waste, whether its lands were appropriated to the chantry of St. Mary in the church of St. John, which certainly existed as late as the fifteenth century, or whether it was transferred to the site now spoken of.

The charter of earl Randal is as follows :—“ Ran'as comes Cestr. ep'is, archdecanis, abbatibus, constab', &c. &c. salutem. Sciatis me dedisse et in perpetuam eleemosynam concessisse Deo, et S. Mariæ et monialibus Cestr. n'ris in Xto sororibus *illas croftas quas Hugo filius Oliveri de d'no meo tenuit*, concessione et bonâ voluntate ipsius Hugonis, ita quod illas clamavit quistas, coram me et comitissâ, et plurimis baronum meorum, liberas et immunes ab omnibus secularibus sevitiis, et omnimoda subjectione *ad edificandam ibi ecclesiam in honore' Dei et s'tæ Mariæ* in remissionem peccatorum meorum, et ad fundationem sui edifici. Volo igitur et præcipio quod ecclesia ista in eleemosynâ mea fundata, de tolneto et omni seculari exactione libera sit et quieta, et curiam suam et dignitatem ac libertatem, in omnibus et per omnia, prout libera exigit eleemosyna habeat ; quam vobis mando, ac diligenter et in D'no obsecro, quatenus p'd'tam ecclesiam, et moniales ibidem Deo et S'tæ Mariæ jugiter servientes, cum omnibus ad illas pertinentibus, pro Deo et communi salute meâ vizt. animæ et proavorum, manuteneatis et protegatis, et ne patiamini quod eleemosyna mea deprivetur, neque moniales in ea mianentes ab aliquibus vexentur. Test. Joh'e et Rogero capellanis, Matilda comitissa, Hugone filio comitis, Fulcone de Brichsard, Rad'o Mansell, Ric'o Pine'. Apud Cestriam. Harl. MSS. 2101, 182.

In the same volume are several other grants to this nunnery, among which are the following :—”

P. 183. Hugh earl of Chester, by charter, confirms to the said nuns, all rents, lands, mansions, houses, woods, liberties, dignities, and other gifts in the city or without it, given by his father earl Randal, or by others, free from tolls, watch, customs, or other secular service ; and forbids all men from troubling the said nuns, or requiring any thing from them besides prayers and orisons. Witnesses, Alured de Cobir', Ralph Fitz-Warn, Roger de Linet, William de Roile, William Fitz-Richard, and others.

Ibid. p. 184. Confirmation of the same by Edward earl of Chester, dated at Chester, Sept. 10, 27 Edw. III.—Another confirmation by the same, dated at Chester, Sept. 24, in the same year.

Ibid. p. 188. The same grants to the same that all their tenants at will, or for term of years, not members of the gild merchants of Chester, or sworn to the liberties of the same town (*villæ*) shall be exempted from juries, assizes, inquisitions, recognizances, or appearances before any officers of the city or county of Chester; and from murage, stallage, passage, toll, watch, customs, pontage, mises, and exactions of Tolcest'r, assize of bread, and beer, &c. and from all suits of shires, courts, pendices, (*pendiciarum*) hundreds, portmotes, and works of any kind; and that no officers of the earl or others shall enter on the premises, and that they shall have all ameracements levied on any of their tenants in the earl's courts, and that any sheriff or officer of the city or county interfering with the said liberties, shall be liable to a fine of £10 of silver; provided that the said nuns and their successors shall not bring upon their estates tenants of any other description than those which they now have, or exercise any trade injurious to the merchandize of the city. Dat. ap. Cest. 14 Dec. 32 Edw. III. and confirmed by Ric. II. Nov. 8, an^o. 17 reg.

After the dissolution, the site of the nunnery, and several of its estates, were granted to the Breretons of Handford, and were a prolific cause of difference between that family and the city magistracy, from doubts as to their liability to be rated in local and parliamentary assessments. The nunnery was the occasional residence of the Breretons, but was destroyed during the siege of Chester. The severities exercised towards the city, after its surrender, by Sir William Brereton, who was a descendant of the family, are attributable to the bad feeling created by this disagreement.

The site of this monastery was immediately north-west of the castle walls. A plan of the buildings, as they existed at the dissolution, is given in Harl. MSS. 2073, and has been engraved in the *Magna Britannia* of Lysons. There is also a view of the ruins in Buck's print of Chester castle. The pointed arch of a door-way represented in this plate, was in existence some few years ago, which stood in the middle of a plot of ground called the Nun's Gardens (now an inclosed field in front of Mr. Harrison's house), but no vestige of it now remains. In making the late improvements in the vicinity, many of the bones of the nuns were discovered, and several beautiful fragments of windows and doorways, some of which were in the rich style of the fifteenth century, and had been painted and gilt. Others were specimens of Norman architecture executed in Caen stone, and doubtless coeval with the time of the foundation or translation, by the charter of earl Randal.*

The first prioress was Alice de la Haye, whose name occurs in 1264; the last, Elizabeth Grosvenor, in 1537. The dissolution took place in that year; and the last-mentioned lady, with eleven nuns, were surviving, and in the receipt of pensions in the year 1556.

The following were the lands and other possessions of the nunnery, 33 Henry VIII :—

* Of this establishment, Pennant gives the following dimensions :—The church was 22 yards long and 15 broad, and supported in the middle by a row of pillars. The chapel nine yards by four and three-quarters. The cloisters 20 by 21 yards.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Demeane lands	15	15	4	and Llanyerion, South			
Rents of assize	2	6	10	Wales.....	17	6	8
Free rent from Whalley				Rectory of Bykkyk, and			
Abbey	0	13	4	chapel of Carnarvon....	3	0	0
Lands, tenements, and cot-				Rectory of Over.....	8	13	4
tages, in divers towns ..	47	15	10	Pension from the rector of			
Lands and tenements in				Handley.....	0	13	4
Hanbridge	7	1	0	Pensaion from Budworth			
House in Nantwich	1	13	4	chapel	0	10	0
A salthouse in Middlewich	1	6	8	In money from the king's			
A tenement in Danam....	2	13	4	exchequer of old time			
The rectory of Llangathen,				paid	26	12	2

Friaries.

THE GREY FRIARS, or Franciscans, were seated in Chester, according to bishop Tanner, as early as the time of Henry III. Their house was in the vicinity of the Watergate. Pennant supposes that it "stood in the yacht field, near the spot occupied by the new linen-hall," in the immediate neighbourhood of which painted tiles and stained glass have occasionally been dug up.

In 1579, Peter Warburton, of Arley, Esq. and Thomas Wilbraham, Esq. had a grant from queen Elizabeth of certain premises in Chester, demised by Edward Dutton, gent. consisting of the site late the habitation of the Grey Friars, then in possession of Peter Warburton, of Chester, Esq. &c. The buildings remained tolerably entire to the middle of the seventeenth century, when they were occupied as the residence of Sir William Brereton. A plan taken at this time is preserved in Harl. MSS. 2073. The whole consisted of an oblong enclosure; the entrance was on the east, the church in the centre, and the cloisters occupied the north-west angle.*

THE BLACK, or PREACHING FRIARS were situate on the west side of the north end of Nicholas-street, where, according to Speed, they were established by a bishop of Chester, as the bishops of Lichfield were occasionally called; and, in 4 Edw. I. had exemption from toll at the Dee mills. The precise site of their house is not known, but it is probable that it was near the ancient timber building already noticed (page 9), bearing the date of 1591, and which was subsequently the residence of the Stanley family.† It is believed that the buildings and inclosure extended from this house nearly to the Watergate westward, and almost to Smith's-walk southward. Mr. Ormerod mistakingly places the Black-friars in St. Martin's parish; but the whole establishment was doubtless in that of Trinity.

* On this passage Mr. Ormerod gives the following note, from the Tabley MSS. The three Chester Friaries and the Friary at Warrington, are noticed in the will of Sir Robert Dutton, 1392. Item lego quatuor ordinibus fratrum religiosorum Cestræ et Werington, singulis vero conventibus eorundem xx solidos.

† Mr. Ormerod says, this mansion belonged to the family of Warburton, of Grafton, from whence it passed to the Stanleys, of Alderley.

THE monastery of the WHITE FRIARS, or Carmelites, was established in Chester by Thomas Stadham, gent. in 1279. The site of this, and of the two other friaries were granted by Henry VIII. to John Cokke, but soon passed into different hands. The White Friars, which was in the parish of St. Martin, became the property of the lord keeper, Sir Thomas Egerton, by whom the church, with its fine spire, which according to the Vale Royal was built in 1494, was taken down. This circumstance is lamented by Mr. Webb, whose remarks are as follow :—" In 1597, the White-freeres steeple, curiously wrought, was taken downe, and a faire house built there by Sir Thomas Egerton, knight, lord keeper : a great pitie that the steeple was put away, being a great ornament to the citie. This curious spire steeple might still have stood for grace to the citie, had not private benefit, the devourer of antiquitie, pulled it down with the church, and erected a house for more commodity, which since hath been of little use, so that the citie lost so goodly an ornament, that tymes hereafter may more talk of it, being the only sea-mark for direction over the bar of Chester." Sir Thomas Egerton's house stood between White Friars and Commonhall-street, the site now occupied by the houses and gardens of Philip Humberston and Mrs. Kinloch. Some parts of the buildings, or boundary walls are still discernible on the north-side of Commonhall-street, and the west of Weaver-street.

The only name of any of the heads of these friaries which has occurred, is that of Richard de Donne (probably of the Utkinton family), "*prior fratrum Carmelitarum domus be'e Marie Cestr'*," who occurs as granting a dispensation of marriage to Sir William Brereton and Anilla Venables, 12 cal. Jun. 1386.

The following document relative to the three Chester friaries, is extracted from the records of the augmentation offices, and which was communicated to Mr. Ormerod by John Caley, Esq. F.S.A.

It appears by the accounts of the crown's ministers or receivers from Michaelmas 31 to Michaelmas 32 Hen. VIII. that the three Chester friaries were then thus answered for :—£2. 5s. 8d. for the farm of all the lands and tenements of the brothers minors called the Grey Friars, to wit :—Randal Rogerson 2s. for a small toft on the east side of the church there, within the parish of the Holy Trinity, with 24 feet of one alley there, demised to him by indenture for 80 years, from 30th Hen. VIII., and also with a close and stone wall round the same, lying on the western part of the said church, with the metes and bounds contained in the said ; and also for the farm of a house or chamber, called the hostrye, with a chamber over the common kitchen there, and a chamber called the bishop's chamber, demised to Ralph Wrine, gent. by indenture 10s. for 100 years ; and for the farm of 2 small chambers on the east side of the church, with a garden, called the Covent garden, 2s. 4d. demised to Thomas Martyne by indenture for 60 years ; and for the farm of a house abutting upon the dormitory on the east part of the farm there, demised to Thomas Pyllye, 5s. for 80 years ; and for the farm of one orchard lying on the east side of the chancel there, demised to Fulk Dutton, 3s. by indenture for 80 years ; and for the farm of the land and soil of the whole church there 3s. 4d. ; and for the farm of all other the houses and buildings and land and soil there, let to certain persons, 30s.

The receiver also charges himself with £4. 7s. for the farm of the site of the church, with an alley extending from the east part, to wit, of the *Friers Preachers*, called *le Black Friars*, let by William Bolles and John Wyseman, the king's commissioners, to Tho's Smythe and Richard Sneyde, 3s. 4d. site of the old hall, dormitory, two cloisters, chapter-house, and frayter, let to the s'd Smythe and Sneyde 10s. ; the farm of 3 houses in like manner lying at the lower part of the church there within the parish of St. Martin, with divers other houses, an orchard and a garden demised to Richard Hope at 7s. ; the farm of a tenement with a garden within the stone walls of the s'd brethren, in the tenure of Edmund Corkyn, at 9s. ; one cottage there with garden in the tenure of Margaret Denysse, widow, 4s. the farm of 2 tenements and 2 gardens there, late in the tenure of Peter Calcotte at 16s. per ann. ; one tenem't with a garden, late in the tenure of John Carter at 6s. now let to Rich'd Kelley Slater at 3s. ; one cottage there in the tenure of Eliz. Hussey, 6s. 8d. ; one tenem't with a garden let to R'd. Leftewithe at 20s. ; one garden let to W'm Bixwod at 5s. one garden let to R'd Dyken at 3s. 4d. ; another garden in the tenure of John Pyke at 3s. 4d. ; another garden there let to Ralph Wrynne at 3s. 4d. ; one tenem't with a garden there let to Randall Loyde at 10s. ; and one orchard and one old house in the same orchard, with a garden let to Ralph Wrynne at 5s.

The receiver also charges himself with £2. 7s. 10d. for the farm of the site of the church of the *Friars Carmelite*, with the porch of the same, let to Rob't Chaloner by W'm Bolles and John Wyseman, the king's comm'rs at 12d. and the farm of a barn, with a piece of waste land within the parish of St. Martin, let to William Richardson, at 16d. ; one garden let to Elen Lyme at 2s. ; two houses with a stone-house out of the precinct of the s'd friary, let to W'm Goodman and Geo. Palmer, clerk, at 4s. ; the farm of an orchard called the Quarrel, in the parish of St. Martin, let to John Brykdale and Alice his wife at 4s. 4d. ; one garden let to John Fryers at 6d. ; two chambers and one orchard let to John Hudelton, clerk, at 12d. ; the chief rent of a carpenter's house, 6d. [*pro pagentibus suis imponendis*] and the farm of a small garden in the tenure of Elen Fletcher, widow, a chamber let to Nich's Sagewyke at 20d. ; a hall, kitchen and chambers over them let to Thomas Smythe and others, and 7 tenements in the parish of St. Martin, and 7 gardens, let at 3s. 4d. to W'm Aldersey, &c.

Chantries and Ancient Chapels, and Religious Houses no longer in existence.

The *Chapel of St. Thomas a Becket* is of ancient date : it occurs in the chartulary of St. Werburgh, as the cemetery of St. Thomas without the Northgate, in a deed executed about 1190. This chapel was situated at the northern extremity of Northgate-street, between the roads leading to Eastham and Parkgate. This chapel, say the Lysons, was converted into a dwelling-house, called Green-hall, which belonged to Alderman Dutton, it afterwards acquired the name of Jolly's-hall, from a subsequent proprietor, and was demolished during the siege of Chester, in 1645. The present mansion of John Fletcher, esq. stands very near its site. This chapel is exhibited as

standing in an ancient plan of the city inserted in the King's Vale Royal. The following notice is added from the Crane MSS. "The abbot and convent of St. Werburgh claimed from time immemorial (by plaint not long before the dissolution) a leet of all the residents within their abbey, and also within the Northgate-street, viz. from the Northgate of the said city unto the church of St. Thomas, once by the year to be holden, with all manner of things and articles which to a leet do appertain, &c. which leet was to be holden in St. Thomas's chapel, as appears by a quo warranto, 2 Edw. III. The dean and chapter of Chester cathedral continue to hold suit Thomas of Canterbury's court."

Within the walls of the abbey of St. Werburgh, were chapels dedicated to *St. Leonard*, *St. Nicholas*, and *St. Mary Magdalen*, exclusive of the Lady chapel; and there were also endowed *Chantries* for the souls of Sir John Anneway, of Chester, and Sir Philip Burnel, of Malpas.

Within the precincts of the same abbey were, the *chapel of St. Thomas* the apostle, occupying the site of the present deanery; and a large chapel (the ruins of which exist in the walls of the present Chester Theatre) dedicated to *St. Nicholas*, used for a length of time as the church of *St. Oswald's* parish.

In the college of *St. John*, was a chapel dedicated to the Virgin.

Near to the east end of this church, within the precincts, was the *Chapel of St. Anne*, which occurs in Pat. 16, Rich. II. de fraternitate S. Mariæ et S. Annæ fundanda in capella S. Annæ, infra collegium S. Joannis.—A rental of the possessions of this fraternity is extant in Harl. MSS. 2159, p. 112.

In this church was also *Thornton's Chantry*, in memory of Sir Peter le Roten, lord of Thornton (commonly called Sir Peter Thornton), which is noticed in the general ecclesiastical survey, 26 Henry VIII.

South of the same church was the *Chapel of St. James*, the site of which is given in a plan preserved in Harl. MSS. 2073, and was nearly contiguous to the southern entrance.

The *Hospital of St. Ursula* occupied the site of the old Common-hall, and some painted glass was remaining in its windows in 1663.

In the upper story of the great square tower of the inner ward of Chester Castle, is a small chapel, where king James II. received mass on his visit to Chester. Its dimensions are rather more than nineteen feet by sixteen, and the height upwards of sixteen. The roof is vaulted and groined, the groins being sprung from short slender pillars with sculptured capitals. The tower and chapel were probably built about the time of the extinction of the local earls. The following extract from the pension roll of 1556, gives the name of the officiating priest at the reformation:—"Petri Trafforde cantariste *Cantar. infra Castru' Cestr.* p. ann c."

There was an ancient chapel in *Handbridge*, which occurs in an indulgence "pro capella Sancti Jacobi in Honbrige; and in a presentment, 21 Edw. IV. of David Chalons for putting up a paling in Handbridge juxta capellam Sancti Jacobi, in nocumentum civium civitat. Cestr.

There was a chapel in *Overleigh*. *Overleigh* chapel belonged to the abbot of *Basingwerk*.—*Crane MSS.*

The nuns had one chapel within the walls, and another called *Little St. Mary's*, in *Kettle's croft*, close by the river side.—*Ibid.*

The exact site of *St. Chadd's* is altogether uncertain, although its existence is clearly proved by many documents. There can be little doubt of its

having stood within the square formed by the city walls, the Watergate and the Northgate-streets. Thus for Mr. Ormerod. In Mr. Crane's MS. it is added :—"The site of it must be sought for by these directions ; Robert de Stretton constituted his brothers William and David Ballot his attorneys to give possession to Robert Hare, citizen of Chester, and William Troutbeck, Esquire, of 2 messuages and 2 gardens jacent. in pdict. civitat. Cestræ super le Crofts juxta ecclesiam S'tæ Ceddæ existent. inter messuagia Richardi Coly exparte australi et messuag. Bartrami Lyalton exparte Boreali et Gardinam monach. Cestr. ex parte orientali, et alta strata del crofts ex parte occidentali. 21 Hen. VII. Stephen Cross was fined 9d. fregit et obstupavit viam quæ ducit ad ecclesiam S'tæ Ceddæ Cestræ ad magnum nocumentum civium civitat. prædict. St. Chadd's church stood in that croft where Stanley-place and the Linen-hall now are. It was situate partly in the road which leads from Watergate-street to Stanley-place, and partly where Mr. Hesketh built a house on the west side of that road. In sinking a cellar to this house, tiles, which were part of the church flooring, and buried bodies, were dug up.—A chapel and a well in Little or Petit Parson's lane, were given to our abbey by Richard Fitton, in Hen. 3d's time. Perhaps this chapel is the same as St. Chad's."

St. Nicholas's chapel, in Northgate-street, was converted into the Common-hall of the city, 38 Hen. VIII. 1545.



Dissenting Places of Worship,
WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF THE RISE, PROGRESS,
AND PRESENT STATE OF THEIR CONGREGA-
TIONS, IN CHESTER.

Unitarian Chapel.

The Unitarian Chapel (improperly denominated the Presbyterian Meeting-house) has a prior claim to attention of all others, not only as it was the first dissenting place of worship in the city—the parent stock from which many of the others had their origin, but also as its history is intimately connected with the rise and progress of the dissenters in this part of the kingdom, and may serve in some degree to illustrate the changes through which they have passed, both in relation to opinions and numbers, from the reign of king Charles I. down to the present time. The following account of this place of worship was drawn up by the late Rev. James Lyon, for another publication; and I adopt it not only because of the accurate and excellent manner in which it is written, but because it embodies several interesting historical facts connected with the early period of dissenters in this city. The copiousness of the general remarks will preclude the necessity of any preface to the other bodies of dissenters subsequently to be noticed.

THE PRESBYTERIAN MEETING HOUSE is a large brick building, with a burial ground in front, situated between Crook's-lane and Trinity-lane, having an entrance from each of those streets, and is generally called Crook's-lane Chapel, to distinguish it from one other place of worship which is nearly opposite to it, in Trinity-lane. It was built in 1700, by a large, flourishing, and respectable

Society which had been formed in 1687, by the celebrated Matthew Henry, son of the learned, pious, and laborious Philip Henry, one of the ejected Ministers, whose life, written by his son, is generally esteemed a most valuable and interesting narrative, and has lately been reprinted with notes, by Dr. Wordsworth, in his Ecclesiastical Biography. In the Register Book belonging to the congregation of this place, there is a short account of the rise, progress, and transactions of the Society, written by Mr. Henry, in 1710, being the twenty-third year of his ministry.

From this account it appears, that in 1682, there were three dissenting congregations in Chester, which had been founded by the exertions of Mr. William Cook, Mr. Ralph Hall, and Mr. John Harvey, Ministers of the Established Church, who had been ejected from their respective livings, on account of their non-compliance with the act of uniformity.

Mr. Cook, who was ejected from St. Michael's, in this city, and who is represented by his contemporaries as a man of strong sense, of profound and varied learning, and of great piety, was, shortly after his being silenced, committed by the Mayor to the common jail, for preaching in his own house. The violence and commotion occasioned by the five-mile act, obliged him to withdraw from his public situation, and he retired to Paddington, till the times became more tolerant; when he returned to his flock in Chester, and resumed his ministry, during the short interval of indulgence granted to non-conformists by Charles II. He was greatly esteemed in this city and neighbourhood, not only for his eminent literary attainments, but also on account of the uniform integrity, meekness, and benevolence, which he displayed in the midst of the most painful privations, difficulties, and sufferings. He died in 1684. Mr. Hall, who had been ejected from Mear, in Staffordshire, was also imprisoned upon the five-mile act, for six months, in Chester jail, where the manly fortitude and unrepining patience, with which he sustained his trials, and his benevolent exertions

to enlighten and reform the unhappy criminals who were his fellow prisoners, not only greatly increased the attachment of his friends, but also procured him the cordial esteem of many to whom he was previously unknown, but who were thereby made acquainted with the goodness of his heart, and the many virtues which adorned his character. He died in 1684, a short time after his imprisonment.

After the death of Mr. Cook, and Mr. Hall, their congregations were entirely broken up and dispersed by the persecutions of the times, but such of them as continued Dissenters, either contented themselves with family worship, and occasional meetings at each others houses, or joined Mr. Harvey's congregation, which assembled at his house, in as private a manner as possible, to avoid the penalties then in force against non-conformists, until James II. under the pretence of universal toleration, but with a view to the introduction and establishment of popery, granted them the liberty of public worship, of which they had been deprived in the latter part of the reign of Charles II. It was at this time that Mr. Henry began his ministry in Chester, and was enabled, through the indulgence of the government, to collect the remains of the congregations of Mr. Cook, and Mr. Hall, and to open a meeting in Whitefriar's-lane.*

Mr. Harvey, who had been ejected from Wallasey, in Cheshire, continued to labour, as the Minister of a dissenting congregation in Bridge-street, for thirteen years after the toleration was granted, and, having well sustained, during a long period of great trial and difficulty, the character of a Christian Minister, he died in Nov. 1699, and was buried in the great church.

Mr. Harvey, was succeeded in the ministry by his son J. Harvey, who was brought up among the dissenters. On his resignation, 1706, in consequence of ill health, his

* This meeting-house, I believe, stood on or near the site of the house occupied by Miss Ecking, in Bolland's-court, in the garden of which is a summer-house, said to have been the spot where Mr. Henry wrote the greatest part of his Commentary on the Bible.

congregation, which was large and opulent, was united to that of Mr. Henry, and in 1707, a large gallery was built on the south side of Crook's-lane meeting-house, for their better accommodation. Thus were the three original non-conformist societies united in one, under the pastoral care of Mr. Henry, who remained the only dissenting minister in Chester. In the account he has left of the rise and progress of the congregation in Crook's-lane, he has recorded a transaction which is exceedingly illustrative of the politics of this city in his time, and of the corrupt and arbitrary measures, by which James II. and his government endeavoured to subvert and destroy the Protestant establishment, the civil constitution of the country, and the rights and liberties of the people: "The
 " charter of the city (says Mr. Henry) had been surren-
 " dered about 1684, and a new charter granted, by which a
 " power was reserved to the crown, to put out magis-
 " trates and put in at pleasure. This precarious charter
 " was joyfully accepted by those that were for surrendering
 " the old one, that alderman Mainwaring and some other
 " aldermen of the same honest principles, might be
 " turned out, and none but those of their own kidney
 " taken in. By this charter, Sir Thomas Grosvenor was
 " the first mayor, alderman Wilson, the second, alderman
 " Oulton, the third, and alderman Starkey, the fourth.
 " In the latter end of his time, about 1688, one Mr.
 " Trinder came to Chester, for the new modelling of the
 " corporation, according to the power reserved to the
 " crown by the new charter. He applied himself to me,
 " told me the King thought the *government of the city*
 " *needed reformation*, and if I would say who should be
 " put out, and who put in their places, it should be done.
 " I told him I begged his pardon, that was none of my
 " business, nor would I in the least intermeddle in any
 " thing of that nature. However, he got instructions
 " from others, the new charter was cancelled, and ano-
 " ther sent, of the same import, only altering the persons,
 " and by it, all the dissenters of note in the city were
 " brought into the government; the seniors to be alder-

“ men, and the juniors to be common council-men, and
“ Sir Thomas Stanley, mayor. This charter was brought
“ down, and the persons called together to have notice of
“ it, and to have the time fixed for their being sworn,
“ but they, like true Englishmen, unanimously refused it,
“ and desired that the ancient charter might be restored,
“ though they knew that none of them would come into
“ power by that, but that many that were their bitter
“ enemies would be restored by it. This I take to be a
“ memorable instance both of the modesty of the dissen-
“ ters, and a proof how far they are from an affectation of
“ power ; the top of their ambition being to live quiet and
“ peaceable lives, in the exercise of their religion accord-
“ ing to their consciences ; as also of their inviolable
“ fidelity to the rights and liberties of their country.”
The principles and dispositions displayed by Mr. Henry
in this transaction, and which were so honourable to him
as a man, an Englishman, and a Christian minister, appear
to have governed his conduct at every period of his life.
He was indeed a Calvinist, and a zealous assertor of the
opinions of the non-conformists, but his spirit was never
inflamed by fanatic rage, nor embittered by the rancour
of bigotry and intolerance. He could esteem as brethren
those whose honest convictions would not suffer them to
embrace his opinions, and who conscientiously worshipped
the Supreme Being, under forms different from those
which he deemed most congenial to the spirit of Christi-
anity. The liberality of his sentiments, and the candour
and kindness of his mind, are strikingly expressed at the
close of his sermon on the opening of Crook's-lane meet-
ing-house, in which he thus addresses his brethren :—
“ Be at peace with those from whom you differ in opinion,
and receive them not with doubtful disputations. Care-
fully watch that a diversity of communion cause not an
alienation of affection, but be as ready to do every office
of love, and kindness, and respect, to those from whom
you dissent, as to those with whom you consent ; resolve,
though you differ from them, you will not differ with
them. If our separation be not schismatical in its own

nature, (as for my own part I am well satisfied it is not) let us not at any time make it so by our own uncharitable censures, or unchristian heats and passions."

Mr. Henry removed from Chester to Hackney, in 1713, and died of apoplexy, at Nantwich, where he had been on a visit to his friends, in June, 1714, the fifty-second year of his age, and was buried at Trinity church, in this city. He was esteemed an excellent Hebrew scholar, and, for his time, a biblical critic of no inferior consideration. His exposition of the bible has gone through a great many editions, and is still in great repute, as a practical commentary upon the sacred writings, with moderate Calvinists, both in the established church, and among the various denominations of dissenters. Mr. Henry published, besides several single sermons.—1. "A Discourse concerning the nature of Schism," 1689; 2. "The Life of Mr. Philip Henry," 1696; 3. "A Scripture Catechism," 1702; 4. "Family Hymns," 1702; 5. "The Communicant's Companion," 1704; 6. "Four Discourses against Vice and Immorality," 1705; 7. "A Method of Prayer," 1710; 8. "Directions for daily communion with God," 1712; 9. "An Exposition of the Bible," 5 vols. folio, the first volume in 1706.

Mr. John Gardner succeeded Mr. Henry as the minister of Crook's-lane meeting-house, 1713, and continued to fill that station with reputation and usefulness, for more than half a century. He died on the 2nd of November, 1765, and was interred in Trinity church, near to the remains of his predecessor, Mr. Henry. It is difficult now to ascertain, whether Mr. Gardner was a Calvinist or not, as he did not, from the press make any declaration of that nature, but from the choice of the congregation as to his successor, it seems highly probable, that whatever his religious sentiments were when he came to Chester, he had, towards the close of his life, departed in a considerable degree from the doctrines maintained by Mr. Henry.

Mr. J. Chidlaw succeeded Mr. Gardner in 1765, having been co-pastor with him fourteen years, and was

the sole minister of Crook's-lane meeting-house for thirty-three years, when, from declining health, and the rapidly increasing infirmities of old age, he was under the necessity of resigning the ministry, and was succeeded by Mr. Wm. Thomas, in 1798. Mr. Chidlaw died in 1800, and was buried in the meeting-house yard. He is still well remembered in this city, and his memory is cherished with great respect by the congregation with which he was connected, especially by the aged members of it, who were his friends and associates in early life. He was an Unitarian, and the Ministers of Crook's-lane meeting-house, since his time, have been of that denomination, maintaining the religious opinions generally held by such writers as Dr. Lardner, Dr. Priestley, Mr. Lindsey, and Mr. Belsham. At his death, Mr. Chidlaw bequeathed one hundred pounds to the trustees of Crook's-lane meeting-house, and directed that the interest of it should be applied to the use of the Minister for the time being. He published "A serious call to regard Divine Providence, a sermon preached at Chester, November 8th, 1772, on occasion of the dreadful calamity that happened there, on the 5th of the same month, by an explosion of gun-powder."

Mr. Thomas, though a young man, and apparently of a very sound and robust constitution, when he came to Chester, was, by a painful and lingering disease, which finally terminated in consumption, obliged to resign his public situation in 1808, and, by the advice of his medical attendants, he retired into South Wales, for the benefit of his native air, where he died in March, 1809. He was a man of great integrity and benevolence, and his simple, mild, and unassuming manners, attracted the sincere esteem of all who were acquainted with his character. He did not publish any thing with his name, but wrote several articles in the *Imperial Review*, which evince extensive reading, and a well cultivated mind.

Mr. James Lyons, who had been the minister of a dissenting congregation at Hull, for eleven years, succeeded Mr. Thomas, in 1808, and resigned his situation

as the minister of Crook's-lane meeting-house, in Dec. 1813. He has published two sermons, the first, "The right and duty of a faithful and fearless examination of the scriptures," a farewell discourse on leaving his congregation at Hull, in which he states his reasons for embracing the Unitarian doctrines; and the second, "The dissemination of Unitarian principles recommended and enforced," a discourse delivered at the annual meeting of the Unitarian Fund Society, in London, in 1808.

After Mr. Lyon's reignation, the public services were conducted by Mr. J. Parry, Mr. Theophilus Brown, late fellow of Peterhouse college, Cambridge, and others, until August, 1815, when Mr. W. J. Bakewell entered upon the pastoral office, to which he had been unanimously chosen by the congregation while a student at the dissenting college at York.—The present minister is the Rev. William Aspland.

The funds belonging to this place, which have arisen out of the donations of the wealthy members of the society from time to time, for the use of the minister, and the support of the poor, are very considerable; and are managed by trustees chosen in succession out of the congregation. They have eight alms houses, which are liberally endowed, and in which poor widows reside; funds for the education of young men for the ministry; for the instruction of the children of the poor, and other very important charities. The congregation, though respectable, is not large; the opinions of Unitarians being by no means popular in this part of the kingdom.

Independent Chapel.

This place of worship is situated on the west side of Queen-street, adjoining to which, on the south side, is a house for the minister, and behind a burial ground. The chapel is a handsome brick building, has galleries on three sides, and will accommodate about 900 persons;

in the front is an iron palisading, where there are two entrances. The founders of this place were originally a part of the Presbyterian congregation in Crook's-lane, from whom they separated themselves, in consequence, as they judged, of a departure from the doctrinal sentiments held by their predecessors. For some years they worshipped in a large room now occupied by Mr. Wilcoxon's congregation in Commonhall-street, and formed themselves into a church in 1772, when the Rev. William Armitage was chosen their pastor.* The present structure in Queen-street was erected in 1777, and the congregation attending is large and respectable. The following is a list of the successive ministers from the formation of the church to the present time :—

* Mr. Armitage had not taken up his residence in Chester many days, before a singularly awful Providence spread an universal gloom over the city and vicinity ; at the same time the circumstance was overruled for valuable purposes to many. The event is thus related by Mr. Armitage himself : “ Immediately on my coming to this place, I determined to begin a Thursday evening lecture, and accordingly published my design on the first Sabbath-day after my arrival. This being rather an uncommon service among the dissenters at Chester, struck the inhabitants as a novelty, and excited the curiosity of many people to attend. I was much perplexed in the interval for a subject, nor was it till just before the time of meeting that I could fix upon a text. The only words that I could find liberty to speak from at last, were those recorded in Judges xiii. 23. “ If the Lord were pleased to kill us, he would not have received a burnt offering and a meat offering at our hands ; neither would he have showed us all these things ; nor would, as at this time, have told us such things as these.” I could not then account for being led out of my usual way of study ; but the secret was soon unravelled. It happened that a company of strollers were the same evening to exhibit a puppet show, in a room adjacent to that in which we were to meet for the worship of God, and at the same time that I was to preach. Many debated in their minds whether the shew or the sermon would afford them the greatest entertainment. As I was just come to town, and was entirely new to them, several on this ground resolved to hear me, and reserve their visit to the puppet room for a future evening. It was happy for them that they came to this resolution ; for that very night, the place and about two hundred persons were blown into the air by the explosion of gunpowder, which had taken fire in a room under that in which they were assembled. Forty were killed on the spot, and many others were most miserably scorched and mangled. Those who attended on me made an application of the text to themselves, and said, ‘ If the Lord had intended to kill us, he would have permitted us to go to the puppet show ; but as he has spared us, we will never go again.’ Some of these have attended my ministry ever since, and I trust not without profit.”

The Rev. William Armitage, from 1772 to 1795.

William Thorpe, now of Bristol.

Moses Taylor, deceased.

Ebenezer White, deceased.

John Reynolds, now of Romsey.

John Thorpe, the present minister.

There is an excellent Sabbath-school taught at this chapel, under the direction of the society; who have also two branch-schools, one at Handbridge, and another at Boughton, taught in the chapel where the late Rev. P. Oliver formerly officiated, and which is still occasionally used for divine worship. The aggregate number of scholars taught in these Sabbath seminaries, amounts nearly to five hundred.

Methodian Methodist Chapel.

(*Old Connexion.*)

This chapel stands in John-street, and was erected in 1811. It is a large, well-built, handsome structure, with a semi-circular front, and three entrances; two of which are at the west end, near the city walls, from which a flight of steps descends into the chapel-yard; the other, which is the principal one, is from John-street. It is galleried on three sides, and behind the pulpit is a large orchestra, for the accommodation of a body of singers. The introduction of methodism into this city occurred about the year 1750; and the first preacher who visited the neighbourhood was a Mr. John Bennet. He commenced his labours at Huntington-hall, in the neighbourhood, then the residence of Mr. George Cotton; from thence the preaching was removed to the house of Mr. Richard Jones, in Love-lane, within the city, where a society was first formed. The house appropriated for their worship soon becoming too small to contain the numbers who came to hear, the society procured and fitted up a capacious barn, in Martin's Ash, situated on the south side of the church of St. Martin, from which

time they were regularly supplied with travelling preachers, and where the Rev. John Wesley frequently visited them in his annual excursions. It does not appear that during this time the society were remarkable as to their numbers, or their respectability; but after remaining at Martin's Ash for somewhat more than a dozen years, they had sufficient credit to obtain 520*l.* upon bond, with which they erected, in 1765, the Octagon chapel, near the Barrs in Foregate-street, which they continued to occupy as their place of worship, until their removal to John-street, as above-noticed. The congregation attending this chapel is both numerous and respectable; though it has been considerably reduced in the present year, by the secession of many members of the society, who have united themselves with the New Methodist connexion in the city, in consequence of what they deemed an unjustifiable assumption of authority on the part of the preachers and some of the trustees, in relation to the Sabbath-schools, of which they had the management. The ministers are itinerant preachers, who sometimes continue in a circuit for *one*, and sometimes for *two* years; though the present preachers (Messrs. Jackson and Rayner), probably for *special* reasons, by the appointment of conference, are *both* to remain in the circuit for *three* years—certainly a very *unusual* occurrence.—On the south-west angle at the back of the chapel, there is a good school built, consisting of two stories, in which children are taught to read on the Sabbath-day. The number of scholars taught here is 130*. Attached to this society is also a good brick building in Back Brook-street, in which there is a flourishing Sabbath-school, comprising not less than 320* children. The ground for this building, and a liberal sum of money, were given by an opulent and benevolent individual of the city;—and by the public liberality, the whole debt has been extinguished, so that the school now stands without any other incumbrance than what arises from the purchase of books used for teaching.

* These numbers are given by the superintendants.

There is also a small chapel in Hamilton-place, belonging to John-street society, in which their doctrines are preached in the Welsh language.

Wesleyan Methodist Chapel.

(New Connexion.)

This structure is situated in Trinity-street, but is greatly inferior to that in John-street, both in dimensions and general appearance. It was built in 1794, by a party of the Old Methodists, who wished to have the sacrament administered to them by their own ministers, and preaching in church hours—arrangements strongly resisted by the Octagon trustees, but which were subsequently adopted by that portion of the society who continued to worship there. In the religious struggles accompanying the efforts of the Trinity-street people to obtain their object, a final separation took place between them and their brethren of the Octagon, the ministers of the latter refusing to continue to preach in their chapel, unless they would abandon what they contended for. Thus deserted, the people were reduced to the necessity of availing themselves of occasional ministers, who supplied them until the year 1797, when they joined themselves with a large body of the Methodists, who separated themselves in various parts of the kingdom from the old connexion, and became a distinct body; and whose object was to effect what they deemed a reformation in regard to the power and authority of their preachers, the management of their funds, and the general government of their societies. With this body, which by way of distinction, is denominated the *New Methodist Connexion*, Trinity-street chapel has since continued to be united. The society is less numerous than that of John-street, but it is at present in a state of considerable improvement, and the congregations have lately become so numerous, that an enlarged chapel is become necessary, for the erection of which a suitable plot of ground is in search of. The ministers,

like those of John-street, are itinerant, and receive their appointments from the annual conference. The present preachers are the Revds. B. Earnshaw, and H. Seals.—Connected with this society are three excellent Sabbath-schools, one taught in the chapel, one in Bridge-street, and the other in a new building in Handbridge, which is also used as a preaching-house on the Sabbath evenings. The two latter were formerly united with John-street society; but from which they were separated in the secession already referred to.—Number of children taught in these schools, upwards of four hundred.

The Octagon Chapel

Is situated in Foregate-street, near the Barrs, and as already stated, was built in 1765, by the Wesleyan Methodists. Upon the removal of the society to John-street, it was purchased, and has, since that time, been occupied by its present possessors. The congregation was collected by the labours of the late Rev. P. Oliver, a clergyman of the established church, who embraced the religious sentiments of the celebrated Mr. Whitfield. This gentleman converted some out-buildings near his house in Boughton, into a chapel, where he officiated until his death, without any other reward, than the gratification of diffusing among his poor neighbours, according to the best of his judgment, the spirit and principles of evangelical truth. At his death he bequeathed the chapel to his congregation for a term of years; but upon their removal to the Octagon, they sold their interest in it, and it has since been used as a Sunday-school, by the Independent society, of Queen-street; and occasionally as a place of worship by that respectable body of people. The congregation at the Octagon is considerable, and is in connexion with the societies which were under the patronage of the late Countess of Huntingdon. The Rev. J. Bridgeman (who has a house adjoining the chapel), and the Rev. J. Williams, are the present officiating ministers.

The Baptists

Have two chapels, one in Hamilton-place ; a small, but commodious brick building, which was erected in 1806, but the congregation have no stated minister. The other stands in Pepper-street ; it is built with stone, in a neat style, and was erected in 1827. The Rev. John Sim is the pastor, but the congregation is small.

The Welsh Calvinist Chapel

Is a good brick building, and stands on the north side of Commonhall-street ; it was opened for public service on the 12th of November, 1820. The society consists of about 120 members, and the individuals taught in the chapel, are about 100 scholars, chiefly adults, who learn to read Welsh. There are also two English Sabbath-schools connected with this chapel—one in Further Northgate-street, and the other at Saughall, each containing about 50 children. The public services in this place are performed in the ancient British language. Mr. John Parry principally officiates as the preacher, but is occasionally assisted by itinerant ministers from different parts of the Principality, as directed by the monthly meetings of the preachers and elders.

Commonhall-street Chapel.

This place of worship consists of a good spacious room, ascended by a flight of steps inside, and well fitted up with pulpit, seats, and benches ; it nearly adjoins the shot-manufactory of Mr. Ellis, in Commonhall-street. The diversity of people who have occupied this room as a place of worship is worthy of remark. In 1772, as before intimated, it was used by the *Independents* ; subsequently by the *Wesleyan Methodists* ; then by the *Baptists*, who with the Rev. Mr. Aston as their minister, occupied it for several years ; and lastly, in 1808, it was adopted by Mr. Wilcoxon, and a part of the congregation formerly

belonging to the late Mr. Oliver, and by them it is still occupied. Mr. Wilcoxon officiates as the minister, without pecuniary emolument, whose congregation is very numerous.

The Roman Catholic Chapel

Is situated on the west side of Queen-street. It is a small but handsome brick building, with an elegant doric portico, supported by four light stone pillars in front, and was built in 1799. The congregation is respectable, and has greatly increased since the erection of the chapel. The Rev. John Briggs is the present priest.

The Quakers' Meeting House.

This is a plain building, capable of accommodating several hundred persons, with a burial ground in front; and stands on the east side of Frodsham-street. It is one of the oldest dissenting places now existing in the city, if not the *most* ancient. Dr. Pigot, in his History of Chester, gives the year 1702 as the period of its erection, which is two years after the building of Matthew Henry's chapel in Crook-street; but I am inclined to think, from a passage in Clarkson's Memoirs of William Penn, that it was in existence at least thirteen years before that structure. The biographer says, "Among the places he (W. Penn) visited in Cheshire, was Chester itself. The king (James second) who was then travelling, arriving there at the same time, went to *the Meeting House* of the Quakers* to hear him preach." This was in 1687. By a communication from one of the intelligent *Friends*

* In Gough's History of the Quakers, the origin of this appellation is thus stated :—"It was during his (George Fox's) imprisonment here (Derby) 1650, that, bidding Gervas Bennet (one of the justices who committed him) and those in company with him, *tremble at the word of the Lord*; Bennet, turning this expression into a subject of ridicule, in derision gave G. Fox and his friends the appellation of *Quakers*, by which name this people have ever since been distinguished."

residing at Liverpool, I am also assured, "that there was a meeting-house in Chester in 1770, at the time Dr. Rutter's ancestors resided there." But whatever was the precise period when the meeting-house was built, it is certain, that there was a society in the city as early as the middle of the 17th century. In the life of George Fox, under date of 1657, that zealous champion of the body writes: "From Wrexham we came to West Chester, and it being the fair-time, we staid there awhile, and *visited Friends*;" an expression indicative of their existence here at that time. But still stronger evidence of this fact may be collected from the subsequent recitals in this article.

From the year 1650, when the society was in its infancy, and throughout the Protectorate, this harmless people endured an uninterrupted series of persecution, both in their persons and property. No sooner had the various sectaries, who had raised the standard of revolt, for the avowed purpose of obtaining liberty of conscience, obtained possession of power, than they, in their turn, became tyrants, and imposed pains and penalties upon all who differed from them in theological sentiments. The Quakers were especially marked as objects of persecution, both by the ruling powers, and the intolerance of the populace; and there are few places in the kingdom wherein they suffered greater severities, than in the city of Chester. This fact is but partially known, because on the one hand, the *Friends* have taken but little pains in publishing the cruelties exercised against them, and on the other, the books in which their harsh treatment has been exhibited, have been but very little read. It is no part of my province to write their history: but a few instances of the persecutions they suffered in Chester will not be out of place, particularly as they develop some circumstances of a curious nature relating to the city, but very imperfectly known in the present day. Besides, whatever tends to shew the cruelty and intolerance of times gone by, can never fail to render more dear to us the inestimable blessings we now enjoy, in the secure possession of our civil and religious privileges.

In a work, entitled "An abstract of the sufferings of the people called Quakers, for the testimony of a good conscience," (2 vols. 8vo. 1733) is an enumeration of about twenty cases, in which *Friends* were visited by the civil magistrates of Chester with fine, imprisonment, or banishment, for the following *offences*—non-payment of tythes; for not paying *steeple-house* rates; refusing to *swear*; going to meeting; declaring the truth in *steeple-houses* and streets, and visiting the imprisoned; and for not *putting off* the hat.—From this work, the following cases are selected, in the author's own words:—

Thomas Livesey, for not swearing, had a cow taken from him worth 50s. and for the same cause suffered six weeks and five days imprisonment.

Thomas Holme, being at a meeting in Chester, on the 19th of the 1st month, 1653, and preaching there, was by the mayor sent to the common gaol, kept about six weeks, and much abused and beaten by the wicked drunken gaoler.—Richard Hickcock, for being at the same meeting, was imprisoned fifteen weeks, and Edward Morgan nine weeks.

Richard Hickeock, for speaking to the people in a *steeple-house* at Chester, after the priest had ended his sermon, was committed to prison by the mayor, who ordered the keeper to lay him in irons in a dark stinking place called *dead man's room*,* where they used to put persons condemned to die; in which place and condition he was kept above thirteen weeks from his wife and many children, the place being so nasty, that a snake and other venomous creatures were seen therein; and 'twas thought his cruel confinement would have been his death, had not one George Minshall, a servant of the Protector, a man of a merciful disposition, who came thither at a general sessions for the county, been informed of the poor man's usage, and by an *habeas corpus* brought him before the judge, who finding his imprisonment illegal, set him at liberty.

Richard Scothrop, for exhorting people to repentance in the streets of Chester, was put into *Little-Ease*,† and the next day sent by the mayor to Bridewell.

* Probably the dungeon under the old North-gate, in which criminals were kept after sentence of death had been passed upon them. See vol. i. p. 350.

† I have not met with any account of this *Tartarean* place of punishment in any of our local histories; but I have no hesitation in saying, that it was situated under the North-gate prison, and adjoining the *dead man's room*. A gentleman of the city, with whom I have conversed, informs me, that he has a perfect recollection of a hollow excavation on the side of the rock, in passing from the bottom of the cellar steps towards this dungeon, answerable to the following description. The description itself, which is subjoined, is copied from a note in the work whence the above extract is taken, and reads thus:—“This *Little-Ease* was a hole hewed out in a rock; the breadth and cross from side to side, is seventeen inches from the back to the inside of the great door; at the top seven inches, at the shoulders eight inches, and the breast nine inches and a half; from the top to the bottom, one yard and a half; with a device to lessen the height as they are minded to torment the person put in, by draw-boards which shoot over across the two sides, to a yard in height or thereabouts.”

Thomas Farwell, for exhorting the mayor and aldermen (as they were going to a customary feast, with music playing before them) to mind wherein true christianity stood, which was in true holiness and the fear of the Lord, was for so doing sent to *Little-Ease*, and kept there five hours, by which he was much bruised and hurt, being but a weak sickly man.

1654. William Simpson, going to a *steeple-house* called St. John's in Chester, though he spake not till the priest had done, was by the mayor ordered to be set in the stocks, and when taken out again, was sent to *Little-Ease*, where they kept him nine hours. The next day, for expostulating with the mayor about the injustice of his usage, he was sent to the same place again, after he had been struck in the face, in the mayor's presence, by one of the sheriffs, so that he bled very much.

Richard Sale, for speaking to a priest in the street at Chester, on the 4th of the 11th month, 1656, was by the mayor's orders put into *Little-Ease*, and kept there about eight hours. And on the 8th of the first month following, for preaching in the streets, was kept in *Little-Ease* aforesaid four hours. This poor man, being pretty corpulent, could not be put into that narrow hole without much violence, so that four men had much ado to thrust him in, and at several times by the crushing of him, the blood gushed out of his mouth and nose. His health by this frequent barbarity was much impaired, and his body and legs swelled, so that he languished about two months, after this last time of his being put there, and then died in the 6th month, 1657, imputing the cause of his death to the cruelty of his persecutors.

John Lawson, **John Badela**, and **Henry Murray**, for going into a *steeple-house* with their hats on, though they spake not a word there, were kept in prison twenty-four weeks; one of 'em was put in the stocks, and the other two were sorely beaten.

Richard Hubberthorn, coming to Chester about the 20th of the 9th month, 1653, to visit John Lawson, then in prison, was sent for by the mayor, out of the house where he lodged, and committed to prison, and there detained eight days.

1656. Edward Morgan, a citizen of Chester, had a servant who stole a piece of leather from him; the mayor, being informed of it, and desirous to ensnare Edward, sent for them both, and because Edward appeared before him with his hat on, and could not swear, the thief was discharged, and Edward himself committed to prison, where he was kept eleven weeks, and then privately released. In the time of his imprisonment he sent a letter to the mayor, by one **Deborah Maddocks**, who finding him in the Pentice, delivered the letter, but for doing her errand too bluntly, and coming irreverently (as he called it) before magistrates (for it seems she did not make him a courtesie), he sent her by a constable to *Little-Ease*, where she was kept about four hours.

We shall close the present account of this city with the peculiar case of **Anthony Hutchins**, a tanner in Chester, who having taken an account in writing of the sufferings of the people called Quakers there, which was afterwards published in print, he sent the manuscript copy thereof first to the mayor, who put the bearer of it into *Little-Ease*, and about ten days after, being the 8th of the 7th month, the said Anthony Hutchins was sent for by constables to appear before the mayor, recorder, and another justice of the peace, who, having a copy of the book before them, proceeded to his examination. [Here follows the examination at length.] His examination being over, and he refusing to find sureties, was committed to gaol for writing a

libel, wherein, as they said, he had reproached the magistrates and ministers of Chester. After he had been thirty-two days in prison, the general sessions for the county coming on, he was by *habeas corpus* removed to answer the law before the judges, who making due enquiry into the matter, and judging the cause of his commitment insufficient, discharged him; although he, before them, asserted the truth of all he had written, which he afterwards printed under the title of, *A Declaration of the Sufferings of the Saints in Chester*; in which book are many of the accounts herein before given.

From the preceding accounts it would seem, that the *Friends* were formerly more numerous than they are at present; and it appears from a passage in Thomas Story's Journal, that in 1717 he "attended meeting in a large place called the Tennis Court, being the place provided for the yearly meeting." During the last thirty years, the resident members attending the meeting here have varied from ten to fifteen; but by removals and other causes, they are now somewhat less. Neither are the visits of travelling ministers so frequent as formerly, but when they do occur, their public meetings are numerously attended by people of other denominations.

The Primitive Methodists, or Ranters,

Have a small chapel in Steam-mill-street, near the Barrs, erected about the year 1825. The body to which they belong has very considerably increased within the last few years, and now consists of nearly 40,000 members, in different parts of the kingdom. This sect had its origin with about forty individuals, who separated themselves from the Old Methodist connexion, at Burslem, in Staffordshire, about 1806. Their first and principal place of worship was at the village of Tunstall, a mile from Burslem, where they remained localized, till about the year 1818, when they began to spread themselves in distant parts of the nation, and are now risen to the above numbers. In Staffordshire, they were first called *Clowsites*, from *William Clowes*, one of their principal preachers; they derived the name of *Ranters* from their loud and vociferous mode of worship; but they distinguish themselves by the cognomen of *Primitive Methodists*, affecting to follow the example of the early disciples of the Rev. John Wesley.

Public Buildings.

New Bridge over the Dee.

THIS stupendous structure, though not completed at the time I write (Nov. 1830), is rising into magnificence ; the centres all fixed, and several courses of stone laid upon the arch.

The obstacles and the opposition which preceded this undertaking, as well as the way in which they were overcome, have already been stated. It is more than probable, as before observed, that from the period, when the late Thomas Harrison, Esq. was employed as the county architect, about the year 1788, the present bridge formed a part of that grand scheme of improvements which are now on the point of completion, in the vicinity of our county hall. Under the direction of that eminent individual, a model of the bridge was constructed, which for several years was exhibited in the grand jury-room of the shire-hall. According to this design, the bridge consists of one main arch, with a small dry arch, or towing-path, on each side, by which a land communication is preserved on both sides the river. The great distinguishing feature of this edifice is the unparalleled width of the chord or span of the main arch, which is of greater extent than that of any other ever known to be constructed.* The

* The following is a list of stone bridges, whose length of span in the arch bears the nearest approach to that of Chester :—

NAME.	RIVER AND PLACE.	SPAN.	ARCHITECT.	DATE.
Vieille Brioude ..	Allier, Brioude . . .	183 feet..	Grenier.....	1454
Ulm	Danube, Suabia ..	181	Wiebeking	1806
Gignac	L'Erauult, France..	160	Garipuy	1793
Lavour.	Agout, Lavour....	160	Saget.	1775
Castell Vecchio ...	Adige, Verona....	160 .....	.....	1354
Tournon	Doux, France	157 .....	.....
Claix	Drac, Grenoble....	150 .....	.....	1611
Pont-y-ty-prydd	Taafé, Glam.....	140	Edwards	1755

execution of the project required a daring genius, equal to the boldness of the conception ; and a competent undertaker was found in the person of Mr. Trubshaw, a gentleman of Staffordshire, who has been extensively concerned in the building of bridges, and other public edifices. A variety of opinions have prevailed as to the practicability of a successful result ; but, as it approaches the test of security, the doubts of those who were the most sceptical, are assuming the sentiments of assured confidence.

The act for building the bridge and opening the approaches, was obtained in the session of 1825, in which seven years were allowed for their completion ; but it was not till the month of August, 1827, that the bridge commissioners entered into contract with Mr. Trubshaw for the execution of the work. The terms of the contract were, for the erection of the bridge, 29,000*l.*, and for forming the approaches 7000*l.*, making a total of 36,000*l.* Mr. Jesse Hartley, of Liverpool, was appointed the surveyor. Of this bridge, the first stone was laid on the 1st of October in the same year, by the Right Hon. Earl Grosvenor, accompanied by the mayor, the members of the corporation, and a considerable portion of the principal gentry and others of the city and neighbourhood ; and in the evening, a splendid dinner was given at the Royal Hotel, to commemorate the event.

Of the dimensions of this magnificent structure, with some particulars of its composition, the following is an accurate delineation :—The chord or span of the arch is TWO HUNDRED feet, a capacity, as before observed, unequalled in the globe. Height of the arch from the springing line, 40 feet.—Dimensions of the main abutments 48 feet wide by 40 ; with a dry arch, as a towing-path on each side, 20 feet wide, flanked with immense wing walls, to support the embankment. The whole length of roadway, 340 feet.—Width of the bridge from outside the parapet walls, 35 feet 6 inches, divided thus : carriage road, 24 feet ; the two causeways, 9 feet ; thickness of the parapet walls, 2 feet 6 inches.—Altitude, from the top

of the parapet wall, to the river at low water-mark, 66 feet 6 inches.

Of the stone used in the different parts of the bridge, the following is an analysis:—The springers of the arch, Scotch granite; the quoins of the arch, lime-stone, from Anglesey, and from the neighbourhood of Burton-in-Kendal, Westmoreland; the arch-stones, and those in the main abutments, together with the casings of the wings, are of stone obtained from Peekforton-hills; and the backing of the wings, and the interior of the abutments above the lateral pressure of the arch, and where there is no exposure to the weather, is composed of stone got at Hough-green, near the city.

The ground in Grosvenor-street, and that near Overleigh, where the new line will join the old turnpike road, is nearly upon a level, but the bed of the river is upwards of twenty yards below this level. The intermediate valley, formed by the declivity from the entrance to the castle to the Dee, and the ascent thence to Overleigh, is to be filled up, which at present is but partially effected, so that the whole line, from Bridge-street to the latter place, will form nearly a level surface.

It is confidently anticipated, that a passage will be effected over the bridge by the middle of 1831, and that it will be finished for all the purposes of travelling by the end of that year. According to the original plan, it was intended that the site of the bridge should have been about thirty yards higher up the river, and that the termination of the new line should join the old turnpike, nearly opposite the Wrexham road. But it was found, upon examination, that no secure foundation could be obtained on the eastern bank higher up the river than that where the present site is fixed. This difficulty, in connection with the influx of the tides, gave an appearance of tardiness to the work in its commencement; but the subsequent activity and rapid advancement afford a reasonable probability, that the whole undertaking will be completed within the period prescribed by the act of parliament.

Chester Castle.

Ordericus ascribes the erection of the castle of Chester to William the Conqueror, in 1069. It was certainly the palace of the local monarchs, as well as the chief strong-hold, and retained much of the appearance of this mixed character until the recent alterations.

The castle is situated near the south-west angle of the city walls; but the ground whereon it stands, as well as a small portion of the vicinage, was constituted a part of the county palatine, by the charter of Henry VII. confirmed by subsequent acts of parliament. The upper ward stands on very high ground, defended by natural precipices on the south and west, and by an artificial elevation on the north. The ancient form and dimensions of this structure, are no more to be seen, but in the descriptive page of history; and I know of no author that can be consulted with more advantage on this subject, than the accurate Pennant, whose account I shall adopt: it was written about the year 1777.

“The castle is composed of two parts, an upper and a lower; each with a strong gate, defended by a round bastion on each side, with a ditch, and formerly with draw-bridges. Within the precincts of the upper *ballium* are to be seen some towers of Norman architecture, square, with square projections at each corner, very slightly salient. The handsomest is that called *Julius Cæsar's*. Its entrance is through a large gothic door, probably of later workmanship. The lowest room has a vaulted roof, strengthened with ordinary square couples. The upper had been a chapel, as appears by the holy water pot, and some figures, almost obsolete, painted on the walls. Its dimensions are nineteen feet four inches, by sixteen six; the height also sixteen feet six. The roof is vaulted; but the couples, which are rounded, slender and elegant, run down the walls, and rest on the cornuted capitals of five short but beautiful round pillars, in the same style with those in the chapter-house of the cathedral, probably the work of the same architect. The

arsenal, some batteries, and certain habitable buildings, occupy the remaining part.

“On the sides of the lower court stands the noble room called *Hugh Lupus's* hall, in which the courts of justice for the county are held. The length is near ninety-nine feet; the breadth forty-five; the height very awful, and worthy the state apartment of a great baron. The roof supported by wood work, in a bold style, carved, and placed on the sides, resting on stout brackets. This magnificent building probably retains its original dimensions. The character of the first Norman earl required a hall suited to the greatness of his hospitality, which was confined to no bounds.* ‘He was,’ says Ordericus, ‘not only liberal, but profuse; he did not carry a family with him, but an army. He kept no account of receipts or disbursements. He was perpetually wasting his estates; and was much fonder of falconers and huntsmen than of cultivators of land and holy men; and by his gluttony he grew so excessively fat, that he could hardly crawl about.’

* Mr. Ormerod is of opinion, that the castle of the Norman earls comprised only the *upper ward*. He states as a certainty, that the outer wall of the *lower ward* was ordered to be erected four years *after* the extinction of the local earldom; and that Hugh Lupus's hall, contained in that ward, was added at the same period. The authority upon which Mr. Ormerod relies for this statement is the following document, which he acknowledges to have been communicated to him by S. Lysons, Esq. and which certainly goes a great way in establishing his hypothesis:

“*De forinseco Ballio et nova Aula Cestrie faciundo.*

Mandatum est Alano Zouche Justiciario Cestrie quod murum forinseci Ballii Castri Regis Cestrie et novam Aulam Regis Cestrie in eodem Castro quæ incepta sunt per visum proborum et legalium hominum perfici faciat et Computum quod ad hoc posuerit Rex ei faciet allocari. Teste ut supra Rex apud Windesoram 26^{to} Die Aprilis. Præterea habuit inde breve Computi de eadem Data.—Claus 35^o Hen. 3^{ta} m. 14.”

TRANSLATION.

“*For the making of the Outer Ward and new Hall of Chester.*

It is commanded to Alan la Zouche, Justice of Chester, that he cause the wall of the outer ward of the King's Castle of Chester, and the new hall of the King in the same Castle which are begun, to be finished under the inspection of skilful and lawful men. And the account he may lay out thereupon, the King will cause to be allowed him. Witness as above the King at Windsor, the 26th day of April. Moreover he had thereof a writ of account of the same date.—Close Rolls, 35 Hen. 3. Skin. 14.”

“ Adjoining to the end of this great hall is the court of exchequer, or the chancery of the county palatine of Chester. This very building is said to have been the parliament-house of the little kings of the palatinate. It savours of antiquity in the architecture ; and within are a number of seats described by Gothic arches and neat pillars ; at the upper end are two, one for the earl, the other for the abbot. The eight others were allotted to his eight barons, and occupy one side of the room.

“ The county gaol for felons and debtors is the last place to be described. I can do little more than confirm the account of it by the humane Howard. Their day confinement is in a little yard, surrounded on all sides by lofty buildings, impervious to the air, excepting from above, and even unvisited by the purifying rays of the sun. Their nocturnal apartments are in cells seven feet and a half by three and a half, ranged on one side of a subterraneous dungeon, in each of which are often lodged three or four persons. The whole is rendered more (wholesomely) horrible by being pitched over three or four times in the year. The scanty air of their straight prison-yard is to travel through three passages to arrive at them, through the window of an adjacent room ; through a grate in the floor of the said room into the dungeon ; and finally, from the dungeon, through a little grate above the door of each of their kennels.* In such places as ~~these are the innocent and the guilty~~ permitted to be lodged, till the law decides their fate.† Mr. Howard

* It will be gratifying to the humane traveller to contrast the miseries here so pathetically described, with the convenient and salubrious disposition of the courts and apartments of the present places of confinement.

† Within the walls of this fortress, was an instance of a felon suffering *prison forte et dure*, for standing mute on his trial, till he died of hunger. One Adam, son of John of the Woodhouses, was, in 1310, the 4th of Edward II. committed for burning his own houses, and carrying away the goods. He stood mute ; a jury as usual was empannelled, who decided that he could speak if he pleased. On this he was committed *ad dietam* ; and afterwards John le Morgan, constable of the castle, testified that the aforesaid Adam was dead *ad dietam*. This was the origin of the punishment of pressing to death, or the *peine forte et dure*, which seems a sort of merciful hastening of death ; for it must have been much more horrible, as well as

SOUTH-WEST VIEW OF THE CASTLE.

PAINTED BY G. G. G. G.

compares the place to the black-hole at Calcutta. The view I had of it assisted to raise the idea of a much worse prison; where

‘ No light, but rather darkness visible,
‘ Served only to discover sights of woe.’ ”

Such was the castle of Chester, as described by Mr. Pennant, in the year 1777. Since that period, the upper ward has experienced little alteration, excepting repairs, and the demolition of its gateway with its towers. The lower ward, however, has been entirely demolished, and a series of buildings erected under the direction and from the designs of the late Mr. Harrison, which may well be classed among the most magnificent buildings of the kind which the kingdom can boast. The expences incurred by these erections have been defrayed by the county rates, aided by the revenues of the river Weaver, and by contributions from the national purse towards the parts used by government as an armoury and barracks.

The following delineation of this superb edifice, in its various divisions, may be relied on as correct, the descriptive parts having been drawn up by the distinguished architect himself; the only addition to his manuscript being an occasional tribute of praise to his transcendent genius.

The grand entrance to the castle is situated in the centre of a semi-circular sunk fence or fosse, 13 feet deep, and 319 feet in diameter, cased with hewn stone, surrounded with stone pedestals, at equal distances, and the space filled up with handsome cast iron rails, forming the north-west boundary of the castle-yard, or esplanade. The entrance extends in length 103 feet, and in depth 10 feet; it consists of three parts: a centre, and two

prisons, in the manner prescribed by the law of the first Edward, in whose reign it originated. The term *ad dictam* was ironical, expressive of the sad maintenance the sufferers were allowed; viz. on the first day, three morsels of the worst bread; on the second, three draughts of water out of the next puddle; and this was to be alternately his daily diet till he died.

wings or pavilions, connected by short covered passages. The whole is of Grecian Doric, the centre is a peristyle formed of ten fluted columns, 18 feet in height, and 3 feet in diameter, with their anti or pilasters, the carriage entrance being through the middle inter-colummation, and on each side another for foot passengers. The entablature is crowned with a low attic, formed into pannels, and over the centre of the two fronts large tablets are placed, one of which is intended for an inscription, and the other for a bas relief. The wings resemble small open temples, and have porticos of four columns in front, and two within, with their anti; the roofs terminating in pediments at each end. The ceilings of the different parts are entirely constructed of stone, and are divided into compartments by some beams, some of which weigh from four to five tons, ornamented by caissons with simple mouldings, in the manner of those in the portico of the temple of Theseus, at Athens. The whole is constructed of stone of a good quality and colour; the roofs and their covering being likewise of stone; such portions as appear harmonize with the other parts of the building, which may be regarded as the most successful imitation of pure Grecian architecture in these kingdoms. The columns, mouldings, and plain ashler, are worked and set with a precision which could not be exceeded even in marble. All the columns used in the gateway and the different buildings of the castle, amounting to 84, are each formed of a single stone. It will appear to those acquainted with Grecian architecture, that the Propylæa at Athens, may have given the idea of this entrance, as it certainly did to the designer of the Brandenburg gate at Berlin, which, with this gate in Chester, may be considered as the only examples of the kind now in existence. Although the architect of this gate may have availed himself of the remains of that to the Acropolis at Athens, which from its situation could only be for foot passengers, he has, without injuring the effect, by deviating from the Grecian manner in using an arch, adapted this for carriages also, and given it so different and pleasing a form

CHESTER CASTLE

FROM THE NEW ROAD.

Letter by W. Gurnie for J. Hammingway's Chester.

and disposition, that it may be confidently quoted as an example, to shew that however formal this style of architecture may be thought by some, it is by a skilful master, capable both of variety and picturesque effect. In this instance, it seems to have been in a great measure produced by the different heights of the centre and wings, and the upper parts of them being so detached by the low connected buildings, as to allow the Doric entablatures to be continued uninterrupted, as they always should be, round their respective buildings.

The western side of the castle-yard, or esplanade, is occupied by the armoury, which is capable of containing 30,000 stand of arms ; and contains also immense quantities of ammunition, warlike stores, implements, and military accoutrements of all descriptions. To a stranger visiting Chester, this depository, which consists of one large ground-room and two smaller upper ones, is well worthy particular notice. The racks upon which the muskets are piled, are made precisely on the same principle as those in the Tower of London ; pistols for the cavalry and sea-service, as well as huge masses of swords for horse and foot, are hung on the sides of the walls, and formed into varied curious devices—the whole presenting an interesting exhibition of beauty, order, and cleanliness. The very excellent manner in which this department of the public service is conducted, reflects the highest credit on the store-keeper, Capt. W. M. Henderson, by whose precision of arrangement, an instant supply of military stores can be despatched to any part of the kingdom ; nor would it be just to withhold a tribute of praise from his active and intelligent master-armourer, Mr. John Grimer, whose attention and skill are not more conspicuous, than his civil and obliging manners. Some years ago, a low stone building was erected on the south-side of the upper-ward, as a magazine for the immense quantity of gunpowder constantly kept here ; but it has been reported unfit for the service, and is now only used as a depository for condemned stores. Julius Cæsar's tower, on the north-east angle of

the ward, is now appropriated to that important custody, as indeed it had long been before the erection of the building just mentioned. There is a great number of ordnance pieces here that might soon be mounted upon the battery; and it seems probable, that government is about to pay more attention to this branch of the service within our garrison, having lately placed there, apparently for permanent service a detachment of artillery-men. The importance of Chester castle, as a military depot, may be measured from the circumstance, that all the neighbouring counties in England, and those of the Principality are supplied with military stores from hence; and that there is no other nearer than Weedon barracks, in Northamptonshire, to the south, and the garrison of Hull to the east. The governor of the castle is, general E. Morrison, and general Sir A. Fraser, the lieutenant-governor.

The eastern wing is chiefly occupied by the barracks which were intended for, and very commodiously accommodate, a hundred and twenty men, with their officers. Behind the barracks is the prevest, surrounded by a yard, which serves as an airing ground for the prisoners. These two wings were erected and finished at the joint expence of the county of Chester and the crown; the fronts of them are each ornamented with ten Ionic columns, 23 feet 6 inches high, supporting a simple but handsome entablature, upon which is an attic that hides the roof. The southern side of the esplanade, presenting a stone front of 340 feet in extent, is occupied by the county gaol, grand and petty jury rooms, prothonotary's and exchequer's* offices, and militia armory; and situated

* In the exchequer office, and the prothonotary's office, contained in the great front of this pile of buildings, to the west of the shire hall, are deposited the valuable series of legal documents relative to the county of Chester. An abstract of the inquisitions, enrollments, and other records in the exchequer, was made by Mr. F. Thomas, between the years 1804 and 1811, at such times as were not occupied by his private business, but the time actually consumed may be calculated at between four and five years of constant application. The overwhelming labour of the undertaking can only be estimated by those who have seen the ancient and half-obliterated MSS.

in the centre of the whole, is the magnificent hall of justice. Before the latter, is a portico, with twelve stupendous pillars, in double rows, each of which is twenty-two feet in height, and three feet one inch and a half in diameter, hewn out of a single stone, from the Manley quarry. The ceiling, roof, and covering, are constructed of the same stone, no timber being used throughout the whole. The hall itself is of a semi-circular form, eighty feet in diameter, forty-four feet high, and including the recess for the judges, fifty feet in width. Round the extreme part of the semi-circle, is a colonade of twelve Ionic columns, each of a single stone, twenty-two feet high, supporting a semi-dome, divided into large deep and bold caissons or coffers; in the centre of each is an ornamented rose, which opening to the roof, serves the useful purpose of ventilating the whole of the court to any degree requisite. The bench of the chief justice is in the centre of the large recess, the seats for the grand and petty juries, on the right and left; the counsellors' seats are a little lower; the prisoners' box is on the same level, from whence there is a commodious passage, under the hall, to the gaol, by which means there is no noise or confusion in the bringing to, or removing prisoners from the court: from the prisoners' box is a gradual and regular elevation, by circular steps through the whole court, to the base of the Ionic pillars, which form the colonade. By this plan, upwards of a thousand spectators may have

which were examined; and the skill and precision with which the work was executed, are most honourable to the undertaker of it. These abstracts were first written on paper only, but by an order from the county authorities, Mr. Thomas is now engaged in transcribing them upon parchment—an undertaking which will preserve these valuable documents to distant posterity. I may here remark, not without regret, that the exchequer and palatine courts, which had been in existence for many generations, were totally abolished in the present year (1830) by act of parliament. This ungracious proceeding will operate injuriously to most of the legal profession in the city of Chester, and at the same time be highly disadvantageous to the inhabitants of the whole county, on whom serious delays and expences will be imposed in the recovery of debts. A vigorous opposition was exerted by the city and county against this obnoxious act, but Sir James Scarlett, attorney-general, by whom it was introduced, unhappily succeeded in the measure.

a perfect view of the court, prisoners, and witnesses. From its simple form, and chaste style of architecture, shewed to the best advantage by being lighted from above, this hall has an imposing effect upon the spectator, and gives a proper dignity to the seat of justice. Besides the grand centre-entrance to the hall through the portico, on each side is another, also communicating to the bench, the court, and the different jury-rooms.

The entrance to the county-prison is on the east side of the portico. It is from the nature of the ground built on two levels. The upper line of building on the east side consists of the turnkey's rooms, the large and airy yard of the male debtors; on the west side the female debtors' rooms and court-yard, with the prison hospital adjoining. Both these yards, from their elevated situation, command a delightful view of the fine ruins of Beeston-castle, the Peckforton, Broxton, and Carden hills, &c. through the iron railing, which prevents the debtors from overlooking the court yards on the lower level, which are appropriated to the felons. In the centre is the gaoler's house, projecting from the line of the upper level, so as to completely command a view of every part of the prison. The chapel of the prison is between the upper and lower level, under the gaoler's house, and in the same semi-circular form; it is so contrived as to receive the debtors in a gallery, a very few steps only below the line of their own courts, while the criminals are seated in the inferior part, which is a few steps above their courts and cells; in the centre, near the clergyman, are seats for the family of the gaoler and his domestics. On the lower level, and immediately under the extreme line of the upper, are the cells for solitary confinement and condemned criminals; also the very complete cold and warm baths, in which every prisoner committed, is made to wash himself, his clothes taken away, steamed and stoved, in an excellent apparatus for the purpose, himself clad in the gaol dress, and his own apparel carefully preserved, to be put on at the day of trial. In a semi-octagon arrangement of the lower level under the gaoler's

house, are five large airy yards for felons, each containing a pump and trough, and all of them having their distinct day-rooms and sleeping cells, the whole being traversed by an area or passage completely round, and again inclosed by the thick and lofty exterior stone wall, forming the boundary of the prison. These useful and highly ornamental buildings, not only raise admiration of the architect, but must command the grateful thanks of the public to those county magistrates who selected the designs for them, and have granted the means of prosecuting and completing the expensive undertaking.* The debtors as well as criminals confined in this gaol, are all under the charge and authority of the Constable or gaoler, the county sheriff having no controul over them. J. Dunstan, Esq. is the present Constable, and the office is held by patent from the crown.

The south side of the upper ward is occupied by officers' barracks, and the apartments of the justices, who always inhabit them during the assizes. The chief justice is the military commander of the garrison from the moment he enters the castle till his departure; and the officer of the day regularly waits upon him to receive the watch-word, and take his commands. On the north side, is the delightful residence of the store-keeper, and adjoining are various work-rooms for his armourers and labourers.

* There was formerly another shire-hall, standing without the castle walls, probably near Glover's-stone. Mr. Ormerod says, "In Harl. MSS. 2020, is a letter from the city magistrates to lord (Burleigh?) 4 Feb. 1587, stating that it was *uncovered and in ruyn*, and begging they might have it for shambles; adding, that though they could not gratify his lordship as they ought, yet they presumed to *send him half a dozen of Cheshire cheeses*. Mr. Glasiour and Mr. Bostock had previously a promise of it, but the citizens obtained their suit at the price of £40. and moved it into the North-gate-street. It is represented as placed opposite to the great Abbey-gate in Hollar's plan of Chester. The lower part was made into a flesh-shambles, and the upper part into a storehouse for corn and victuals for the Irish garrisons." I am inclined to think, that the date given to the magistrate's letter, in the above quotation, ought to have been at least seven or eight years earlier; for Webb, in the Vale Royal, under the date of 1582, has the following notice:—"The old shire-hall was obtained in Mr. Bird's time (1580) to make a shambles for the country butchers, and was placed in the corn-market in Mr. Bayand's time (1581) and was this year supplied with country butchers."

In summing up his account of the prison and county court, Mr. Ormerod justly observes:—"The whole interior of the gaol, is as remarkable for its massy strength and simplicity, as the shire-hall and the exterior of the great court are for their classical elegance; and every possible exertion has been made by the architect to combine such arrangements as may tend to the health and comfort of the prisoner, with those measures of security which the public have a right to expect." To this testimony of our Cheshire historian, I shall only add that of the celebrated Mons. Dupin, who, in his account of England, thus notices this building:—"The sessions-house and the panoptic prison of Chester, are united in the same building, which, most assuredly, is the handsomest of this kind that is to be seen in Europe. The interior arrangements are well contrived, and bespeak much regard for humanity; the architecture is equally simple and majestic."

The City Gaol and House of Correction.

This building was erected in 1807, and the prisoners from the old gaol at the Northgate removed to it the following year. It is situated immediately adjacent to the city walls between the Water-gate and the Water-tower; the two prisons are comprised in one uniform plan, being built of brick, with an entrance of stone on the west side, leading to the gaol, and one on the north side, leading to the house of correction. In the centre of the building is a commodious chapel, which serves for both establishments, each having an entrance from their proper sides. The chaplain is the Rev. William Clarke, who performs divine service once every Wednesday and Friday, and twice on the Sabbath-day. Mr. Jepson is governor of the gaol, and Mr. Woolley, keeper of the house of correction; and both are under the superintendence of the city magistrates. Since the building was first erected, several expensive additions and alterations have been made, partly occasioned by acts of parliament

requiring the classification of prisoners, and partly to render the prisons more secure. For the latter purpose, the two lodges which communicated from the roof of the prisons on the east and west sides with the boundary wall have been taken down, so that there is no connection between them, there being an open space all round. Before this useful alteration, the escape of prisoners was very frequent, but that evil seems now to be effectually guarded against. About five years ago, the precincts of the prisons were considerably enlarged, by an extension of the boundary wall towards the east; on the newly-inclosed ground eight work-shops have been erected for those prisoners sentenced to hard labour; and on the north of the area, a lodge for the turnkey, with two lock-ups, one for males and the other for females. Over the western entrance stands as a *memento mori*, the fatal drop, where the county and city criminals are executed, and where numbers of unfortunates have forfeited their lives to the violated laws of the country. The ground in front, lying between the gaol and the city walls, is inclosed with handsome iron railing, and occupied by the governor as a garden.

The Exchange.

This building, where all the city business is transacted, stands on the west side of Northgate-street, nearly opposite the bishop's palace. It was begun in the year 1695, and finished in 1698, in which year the elections of the mayor and city officers, and the courts formerly held in the old Common-hall were removed to this building. The structure is chiefly of brick, with stone finishings, is spacious, has a fine appearance, and originally stood on stone pillars, having a commodious thoroughfare for foot passengers from north to south; and on the east and west were formerly wide openings for the use of the citizens, and the purposes of traffic. In the year 1756, however, the west side was filled up with a range of shops, with which it is still occupied; but they appear to

have been erected less with a view to pecuniary advantage, than from a necessity of sustaining the superincumbent edifice, which was thought to be in danger. On the south front, in the centre of the building, is a full sized, well executed stone statue of queen Anne, in her coronation robes ; but this exquisite work of art has been shamefully mutilated ; the globe and sceptre, with a part of the royal hands, having been broken off. This mischief has arisen from party violence in the heat of electioneering conflicts, particularly during the contests of 1784 and 1812, when the party hostile to the corporation took it into their heads to avenge themselves of the body corporate, by pelting her majesty with stones. On the west side of queen Anne is also a tablet, containing the royal arms of England, as borne before the introduction of the quartering of the house of Hanover ; and on the east side, a similar tablet with the arms of the earldom, &c. The banquet or assembly-room occupies the south end of the building ; it is elegantly fitted up, has an orchestra in its centre, and from east to west is thirty-nine feet long, by twenty-six feet and a half. The court of justice, where the sessions are held, and the annual election of the mayor and city officers takes place, forms the middle of the building, and is a spacious room, sufficiently large for all its purposes, and furnished with suitable accommodations for the bench, counsel, juries, and witnesses. Here are placed several full length portraits of distinguished characters connected with the city. On each side the great south entrance is a baronet of the family of Grosvenor, also one nearest on the east side, all of them at different periods having served the office of mayor of the city ; on the east side is also a portrait of recorder Comberbach, and on the same side an accurate likeness of our late highly respected recorder, Hugh Leycester, Esq. At the north-east angle is recorder Sir William Williams ; next, Sir Henry Bunbury, who was member of parliament for the city for upwards of two and twenty years successively ; then John Egerton, one of the mayors ; at the north-west angle is recorder Leving ;

on the west side, recorder Townshend; and adjoining on the same side, Thomas Cholmondeley, Esq. mayor of the city in 1761. Adjoining and communicating with the court of justice is the council-room, where the mayor and magistrates meet to hear complaints, and transact public business. Here, over the mayor's seat is placed a full-length portrait of king George III. in his robes of state, presented to the corporation by the present Earl Grosvenor; in other parts of the room, are also full portraits of Richard, the first Lord Grosvenor, and of Thomas Grosvenor, Esq. brother of the first earl, one of the representatives for the city of Chester in several successive parliaments; these two last portraits are in their full dress robes as mayors of Chester, and were painted by the celebrated Benjamin West, in the year 1771; here also is an accurate likeness of the present Right Honourable Robert, Earl Grosvenor, in his full dress robes, as a peer of England, painted by Jackson. On the south side of the room, are likewise a series of portraits of city benefactors, with their several donations recorded under each portrait, a copy of which is given in the note below:—*

* PORTRAIT OF WILLIAM OFFLEY.

“WILLIAM OFFLEY Sheriff of this City, Anno 1517, by two wives had 26 Children, of whom Sr; Tho^s; Offley, ye eldest Son by ye 1st Wife Elizth. Dillon, was L^d Mayor of London Anno 1556, John Offley ye 2nd Son was Mayor of this city Anno 1553, Rob^t, Offley, the Eldest son by ye 2nd Wife Elizth. Wright, and Citizen of London by his Will gave 500£ to charitable uses in this City with an yearly exhibition of 5£ towards the maintenance of a Scholar in the University, being ye Son of a freeman of this City and 5 towards ye charge of his commencing M; A. Hugh Offley a younger Son Ald. of London by his Will gave 200£ with an yearly rent of 5£ to charitable uses in this City, Will^m. Offley another Son, Mercht^t, of ye Staple and Citizen of London by Ann his Wife had 15 Children and by his Will gave 300£ to charitable uses in this City.”

PORTRAIT OF SIR THOMAS WHITE.

“This worthy and pious Knight Sr; Tho^s; White Mercht^t, Taylor was born in Hartfordshire, and was Lord Mayor of London Anno 1554 He was a great lover of Learning founded many Colledges and Schools, and gave great sums of money to many Citys and Towns in England for divers good uses and particularly 100£ to be paid once in every 24 years for ever to this City, to be lent 10 years Gratis, to poor freemen especially Clothiers; The first 100£ was paid Anno 1585.”

The Commercial News Room and Buildings,

Are situated in Northgate-street, adjoining St. Peter's Church. The beautiful and highly finished stone front is of the Ionic order, after the designs of Mr. Harrison; on a line with the street, are two very excellent shops, above is the News Room, forty-five feet long, by twenty six wide, with a fire place at each end; it is a remarkably light and pleasant room; all the best London, and many of the Provincial Newspapers, are taken, also the various Magazines, Reviews, Journals, Lists, and Public Records. Of this establishment there are one hundred Proprietors; no annual subscribers are admitted, but the utmost facility is given to the introduction of strangers by proprietors. According to the original rules, the Right Hon. Robert

PORTRAIT OF RICHARD HARRISON.

"RICHARD HARRISON, Brewer, late one of ye Sheriffs of this City of Chester, by his last Will and Testament, did order and direct that his house call'd the Star and other Buildings thereunto adjoining in the said City, should be sold by his Executors Capt; John Sparke, Mr. Richd. Oulton, Mr. Bradford Thropp, and with the money thereby raised, Lands in the Country to be purchased, and ye; profits thereof to go to maintain Almsmen after the manner of Mr. John Vernon's Almsmen in the said City, & the said Mr. Harrison's said Executors have accordingly sold the said House and Buildings, and with the money thereby raised have cloathed poor men with Gowns and Badges, and ye; Interest of ye; remainder of ye; said Money, is paid quarterly to the said poor men till a convenient purchase can be found out Anno Dni: 1606."

PORTRAIT OF OWEN JONES.

"OWEN JONES, of Chester, Butcher, who died Anno, 1658, did by his last Will and Testament, give and bequeathed to the poor of every Company of this City of Chester, from year to year in order as they are usually ranked at Midsummer Shew the Tanners being first and so for the rest in their order till all the Companies in their yearly turns shou'd have enjoyed the same and then to begin again and so to proceed and continue for ever, the profits and rents of all his Lands and Mortgages in Cheshire and Denbighshire, amounting to the value of 45£. per Ann. or thereabouts to be employed for the use of the poor of the said Companies yearly for ever; excepting Five pounds yearly, which he thereby gave and bequeathed to the Mayor and Sheriffs of the City of Chester, for the time being to wit 40s. to the Mayor to buy him a Ring, and 30s. to each of the Sheriffs for their care in seeing this part of his Will performed, which is accordingly done, and to be continued by the succeeding Mayors and Sheriffs of the said City of Chester for ever."

Earl Grosvenor, and the Mayor of the City, are honorary members, and have the privilege of introducing as many strangers as they think proper. Also the Members of Parliament for the City and County; the General commanding the district, and his staff, have full liberty to frequent the room. The entrance to it is from the west, with the Committee-room on one side, and on the other the apartment where the papers are filed, and the keeper of the room attends. Above these two and the entrance, is a very excellent room, let to the proprietors of the Public, or City Library. On the opposite side the court is the Commercial Tavern, also belonging to the Proprietors of the News Room, &c.

PORTRAIT OF JOHN VERNON.

“**MR. JOHN VERNON**, Merchant of the Staple and Citizen of London, born in this City, left 800£. to purchase Lands. Which have been purchased accordingly, the Rents thereof to be thus employ'd yearly for ever, viz. to ten decay'd freemen 60 years old Four Pounds a piece yearly, and a Gown every three years, for an Annual Sermon 10s. to the poor prisoners in the Northgate and Castle to each place 6s. 8d. for a Banquet in the Pentice 20s. & then his Will to be read, & the residue for other pious and good uses therein mentioned. He likewise left 200£. to be employed in Wool to set the poor to work and gave this City divers Pieces of Plate weighing 150 Ounces.”

PORTRAIT OF JOHN LANCASTER.

“**JOHN LANCASTER** of the City of Chester, Ironmonger, by his last Will and Testament did give and devise all his Lands, &c. in Shordley, Hope Owen or elsewhere, in com; Flint after the expiration of 14 years from the time of his death to the Mayor and Citizens of this City of Chester for ever, for the intent that the Mayors and Sheriffs for y^e time being should set out y^e sd Lands and out of y^e rents and profits thereof pay unto 6 decayed Freemen of this city, to be chosen and continued by y^e; Mayor and Sheriffs for the time being y^e; sum of 36£. yearly at Mich'as and our Lady-day, by equal portions for ever, y^e charge of y^e gowns being deducted, if y^e rents wou'd so extend, or else to abate proportionably, and upon the death of any of y^e sd poor men, y^e Mayor and Sheriffs to chuse another so qualified as aforesaid, in his stead, and the said 14 years being now expired Anno Dni 1690 Francis Skillern y^e; Mayor, Edward Parkington & Randle Bathoe y^e; Sheriffs, have set the said Lands and out of the rents and profits thereof have cloath'd six poor ancient Citizens with Gowns and Badges and paid them the residue thereof in money.”

PORTRAIT OF RICHARD BIRD.

“**RICHD. BIRD** of the City of Sevil, in the Kingdom of Spain, Mercht, son of Rich^d; Bird of this City Aldⁿ; and Justice of Peace, after 23 years absence from his Native Country dyed at Sevil, Anno Dni: 1681. He by

The City Library,

Consists of a very large and choice selection of books, and is now, as above stated, contained in an excellent room of the Commercial Buildings, having been removed there from its former situation in Whitefriar's-street, in the spring of 1815. The number of proprietors is at present a hundred and twenty, many of them are also proprietors of the News Room, &c. underneath, but the two establishments are kept perfectly distinct, and are each managed by different committees.

his Will bequeathed 650£. Sterlg.; to be disposed of in this City, the place of his Nativity to charitable uses, which was accordingly performed by his Brother Mr. Willm; Bird Merch^t, and Capt Daniel Causton his Executors, and secured to continue for ever, for the relief of six poor Aged Citizens who are to be qualified chosen apparell and provided for, in all respects according to the Rules and directions set down in the last Will and Testament of Mr. John Vernon deceased, for his Almsmen in this City."

PORTRAIT OF RICHARD SNEYD.

"RICHARD SNEYD late of the City of Chester Cooper, deceased did by his Will bearing date Novr, 15th 1773 bequeath 120£ the Interest of it to be applyed yearly for the relief of an Aged Citizen qualified and chosen according to the Rules prescribed by Mr. Jn^o Vernon's Will with respect to his Almsmen, which sum was paid into the Treasury Octobr 6th 1774 by his Executors."

PORTRAIT OF JOSEPH CREWE.

"JOSEPH CREWE Esq. one of the Aldⁿ, of this City by his Will dated 19th April 1799 gave to the Mayor and Citizens 120£ to be applied in the maintenance of an aged Almsman, to be qualified elected and chosen according to the direction of Mr. Vernon's Will and by Codicil dated 18th July 1800 gave 600£. to the said Mayor and Citizens In Trust to pay 30£. a year by quarterly payments equally amongst the six Chapel-yard Widows and directed the said Legs. to be paid within one month after his decease.—He died 12th January, 1800."

PORTRAIT OF WILLIAM LEWIS.

WILLIAM LEWIS, of Lyon House Stamford Hill in the county of Middlesex Esq. on the first February 1808 transferred into the names of the Mayor & Citizens of his Native City of Chester, 200£. 3 p^r; cent. Consols, in trust to pay the Dividends thereof on the 10th February in every year, for ever, unto the Widow of a Freeman of the said City having Three Children, under the age of 12 years, standing in need of pecuniary assistance and never having received relief from any parish; but if a Widow of such description cannot be found, then to pay the said dividends to any deserving Widow of a Freeman being 66 years old, or upwards, in straightened circumstances, and never having received such relief as aforesaid."

General Public Library.

This library was established in the year 1817, by a number of respectable residents ; it was first commenced in Bolland's entry, but it was subsequently removed to a more spacious and commodious room in Fletcher's Buildings, where it now remains. The principal patrons of this library were J. Fletcher, Esq. who besides a donation of twenty guineas, presented the infant institution with a number of valuable books, among which was the Edinburgh Encyclopædia ; J. Feilden, Esq. of Mollington ; Capt. Henderson, and several other gentlemen, who also took an active part in its prosperity. The library is now gaining a very respectable character, both for the number and value of its books. It is governed by a committee of subscribers, and all the subscribers have the privilege of introducing a friend. The room in which the library is held is decorated with a well-finished portrait of Mr. Fletcher, executed at the request and expense of the subscribers.

The Custom House,

Is situated on the north side of Watergate-street, adjoining Trinity Church ; it is an ancient structure, chiefly of brick, but partly of stone, having several entrances, and evidently built or repaired at various distant periods ; over one of the doors is an armorial coat, in a stone tablet, with three garbs (without the sword) and the earl's coronet above. The edifice, although more than sufficient for the *decayed* port of Chester, is a paltry and unsightly building, intruding into the proper line of the street several feet, and it is to be hoped the commissioners of his Majesty's customs will shew themselves friendly to the improvement of the street, by taking the first opportunity of throwing it back.

The old bridge,—engine-house,—theatre, Union, Commercial, and new Linen-halls, have already been described.

Charitable Institutions.

It has elsewhere been remarked in this work, that the city of Chester abounds with institutions, whose object is to meliorate the condition of suffering humanity in all its diversified forms of wretchedness. Here is a comfortable receptacle, with wholesome food, for the poor and aged ;—a well-regulated sanctuary, with skilful physicians, and requisite comforts, to alleviate the pressure of disease and pain ;—seminaries in abundance for the instruction of the ignorant ;—a refuge open for the unfortunate penitent Magdalen ;—an asylum for the protection of pitiable maniacs ;—and a sluice of mercy open to the calls of poor females, in the time of nature's sorrow. And independent of these, most of them munificently supported by voluntary contributions, the streams of charity flow copiously through numerous channels of individual kindness, to feed the hungry and clothe the naked. Of our public charities, I shall here give an enumeration, with a short sketch of their history and present state.

House of Industry.

Among the public or general charities, the House of Industry claims precedence. It is situated near the bank of the river, on the north-west angle of the Roodeye, and was built by the corporation in 1757, for the accommodation of the city. It is governed by the mayor, recorder, and aldermen (being justices of the peace) for the time being, and seventy-four other guardians, elected by the nine parishes of the city, according to an act of parliament passed in the year 1762. By this act, the poor-house was vested in the above guardians for ninety-nine

years, from the 1st of May, 1762, for the sum of 90*l.* a year, with power in the guardians to terminate the engagement after the first seven years, by giving eight months notice.

In the year 1819, an additional building was erected on the west side of the poor-house, designed as an asylum for pauper lunatics. This may be considered a most humane adjunct; its cost was about 700*l.*; and the average of inmates is about twenty-two. In 1823, another and important appendage was added to the house, by the addition of a school, for educating the infant paupers, on which was expended the sum of 523*l.* and in which are constantly taught about 50 children. A warm bath was likewise fixed in the house in 1821, which, with its apparatus, is highly complete in every part.

There are few places in the kingdom where the comforts of the poor are so efficiently provided for, as in this institution. The board of guardians meet every Thursday, when each individual case of the out-poor is brought before them; and when each inmate of the house is at liberty to state his complaint, if he have any to prefer. The internal management is truly excellent, and exhibits an example that may be advantageously followed by any work-house in the nation. The food of the inmates is good and nutritious; their treatment, gentle and humane, while an appearance of cleanliness and an air of comparative comfort are prominently discoverable throughout the whole of the little community. For 20 years, Mr. Jarvis has had the superintendence and management of the house affairs, and it is to his humanity and unceasing attentions, with those of Mrs. Jarvis, who is matron of the house, that is to be attributed this excellent state of its internal government.

The annual amount of rates for the support of the poor in the nine parishes of Chester, has varied within the last twenty years from 1000*l.* to 2000*l.* per annum. By reference to the subjoined tables, the exact amount of the levies and expenditure from 1811 to 1830, distinguishing the amount in each year, will be seen, which will afford the most satisfactory account on the subject I can give.

Amount of Money assessed, levied, and collected for the Poor of the nine parishes of Chester, from 1811 to 1820.

PARISHES.	May 3, 1811.			April 30, 1812.			April 20, 1813.			April 28, 1814.			April 27, 1815.			Mar. 28, 1816.			Mar. 27, 1817.			Mar. 26, 1818.			Mar. 25, 1819.			March 30, 1820.		
	L.	s.	D.	L.	s.	D.	L.	s.	D.	L.	s.	D.	L.	s.	D.	L.	s.	D.	L.	s.	D.	L.	s.	D.	L.	s.	D.	L.	s.	D.
St. Oswald's..	1137	6	7	1260	5	7	1575	12	7	1807	5	1	1604	14	3	1388	1	0	1848	16	0	1997	1	1	1882	15	1	2000	10	3
John's....	1132	8	3	1499	5	10	1967	2	5	1859	18	10	1555	5	1	1427	19	0	2182	8	5	2273	19	2	1832	5	6	1943	3	6½
Mary's....	1032	4	10	913	11	1	1250	12	6	1109	5	6	1143	19	3	1319	14	10	1641	3	2	1616	14	0	1523	0	1	1519	11	3½
Trinity...	678	5	8	670	11	2	795	6	7	682	16	2	687	12	1	687	6	11	952	17	0	925	6	6	1070	6	8	942	0	3½
Michael's..	193	18	0	235	18	11	272	6	0	192	16	0	169	13	0	189	0	7	227	13	3	218	19	2	304	19	4	224	3	8
Bridget's..	201	16	5	260	13	0	347	16	2	299	14	6	246	19	0	296	4	8	431	14	7	282	11	8	340	12	4	373	10	1
Peter's....	346	8	0	580	11	4	595	5	4	376	0	4	429	15	8	348	16	6	617	0	10	520	19	11	344	2	6	520	10	5
Martin's...	187	0	5	236	4	3	259	13	5	365	13	0	261	1	8	202	7	2	282	5	9	339	6	1	345	12	7	328	13	2½
Olave's....	136	6	3½	143	13	9	182	3	11	197	7	9	163	15	1	186	16	5	247	8	9	194	17	3	227	0	5	170	15	2
Totals.....	5045	14	5½	5770	14	11	7245	18	11	6890	17	2	6262	15	1	6044	7	1	8411	7	9	8369	14	10	7870	14	6	8022	17	11

Amount of Money expended by the nine parishes for the Poor from 1811 to 1820.

PARISHES.	May 3, 1811.			April 30, 1812.			April 20, 1813.			April 28, 1814.			April 27, 1815.			Mar. 28, 1816.			Mar. 27, 1817.			Mar. 26, 1818.			Mar. 25, 1819.			March 30, 1820.		
	L.	s.	D.	L.	s.	D.	L.	s.	D.	L.	s.	D.	L.	s.	D.	L.	s.	D.	L.	s.	D.	L.	s.	D.	L.	s.	D.	L.	s.	D.
St. Oswald's...	1235	11	6	1195	6	0	1762	16	3	1682	9	8	1416	19	10	1354	4	4	1871	12	7	2095	19	3	1718	9	8	2066	3	2
John's....	1509	6	1	1547	12	8	1907	0	8	1801	1	1	1457	10	9	1590	3	11	2173	10	10	2070	15	5	1775	10	8	1920	4	0½
Mary's....	995	8	0	916	9	10	1210	5	0	1188	19	2	1069	7	0	1282	14	3	1639	5	7	1701	1	5	1365	16	3	1605	7	2½
Trinity...	705	16	5	618	18	11	666	9	4	727	13	9	641	7	3	728	3	11	906	18	3	1111	18	11	1046	19	4	1014	0	8
Michael's..	188	15	8	210	11	5	259	5	1	276	1	11	224	7	7	183	18	8	234	19	1	301	17	6	238	2	3	230	3	1
Bridget's..	296	5	4	223	13	10	304	10	8	336	8	4	203	13	0	329	2	10	373	11	7	363	0	0	343	2	1	353	6	7
Peter's....	431	0	4	484	7	0	530	16	9	429	2	3	412	13	6	363	11	3	586	16	8	476	15	6	433	13	9	500	2	4
Martin's..	216	16	1	287	5	0	258	2	9	331	18	3	256	6	4	283	15	4	384	5	8	361	5	9	274	13	4	276	19	10
Olave's...	149	8	10	143	7	7	172	8	7	149	12	3	211	5	9	192	0	0	218	11	0	224	17	5	196	13	9	206	10	4
Totals.....	5728	8	3	5557	12	3	7071	15	1	6923	6	8	5893	11	0	6307	14	6	8350	11	3	8697	11	2	7393	1	1	8172	17	3

Amount of Money assessed, levied, and collected for the Poor of the nine parishes of Chester, from 1821 to 1830.

PARISHES.	Mar. 29, 1821.	March 23, 1822.	March 27, 1823.	March 25, 1824.	March 31, 1825.	Mar. 30, 1826.	March 29, 1827.	March 27, 1828.	Mar. 26, 1829.	Mar. 25, 1830.
	L. S. D.	L. S. D.	L. S. D.	L. S. D.	L. S. D.	L. S. D.	L. S. D.	L. S. D.	L. S. D.	L. S. D.
Oswald's.	1867 5 7	1699 17 6	1574 8 10½	1746 15 11½	2168 3 7	1711 0 9	1540 4 8	1726 7 4	1478 19 0	1602 6 8½
John's..	1982 14 1	1593 12 10½	1999 3 0	1850 17 9½	2217 11 5	1510 16 1	1613 18 9	1618 7 7	1616 17 9	1388 15 8
Mary's...	1500 14 1	1248 10 10½	1116 1 1	954 18 1½	963 18 5	943 16 2	1121 7 11	1124 19 9	953 19 11	1108 14 9
Trinity..	941 3 0½	951 16 10	685 11 4	832 18 5½	699 8 7½	602 7 6	860 15 4	749 14 8	622 16 8	753 16 7½
Michael's	296 11 5½	232 4 5	223 2 1	300 5 10	283 17 10	242 6 8	240 13 6	277 11 4½	312 3 9	272 12 7
Bridget's.	472 7 4	339 7 0	318 4 6	336 10 3	325 5 4½	228 5 11	329 12 3	266 7 7½	364 0 8	366 7 8
Peter's..	527 1 5½	519 13 9	443 8 8½	487 3 6	501 1 3	545 2 10	525 14 0	422 1 7	412 8 9	510 5 3
Martin's..	252 13 3	244 17 9½	170 7 0½	208 10 1	256 15 11	234 9 3	299 19 6½	296 0 6	243 19 9	249 18 8
Olave's...	217 10 3½	222 15 6½	202 6 11	149 16 8	126 12 6½	125 17 2	190 19 3½	133 4 6½	126 18 0	119 18 1
Totals ..	7988 0 7	7032 16 1	6732 13 6½	6867 16 8	7542 14 11½	6144 2 4	6723 5 3	6614 14 11½	6132 4	36372 16 0

Amount of Money expended by the nine parishes for the Poor from 1821 to 1830.

PARISHES.	Mar. 29, 1821.	March 23, 1822.	March 27, 1823.	March 25, 1824.	March 31, 1825.	March 30, 1826.	March 29, 1827.	March 27, 1828.	March 26, 1829.	Mar. 25, 1830.
	L. S. D.	L. S. D.	L. S. D.	L. S. D.	L. S. D.	L. S. D.	L. S. D.	L. S. D.	L. S. D.	L. S. D.
Oswald's.	1883 9 1	1811 11 6	1609 0 5½	1607 1 2	1693 7 0	1471 18 10	1582 9 0	1490 2 8	1612 8 7	1563 6 3
John's..	2119 2 7½	1886 8 3½	1831 1 9	1667 0 9½	1657 9 5	1474 14 8	1677 7 6	1648 4 7	1465 16 0	1564 13 5
Mary's...	1582 17 0	1119 7 11½	1159 4 0½	994 18 11½	1062 8 1	903 5 0	1152 15 2	1027 9 4	1002 4 2	1148 14 7½
Trinity..	959 18 6	785 2 0	802 1 5½	738 7 11½	789 13 7½	625 0 8	827 8 9	713 10 1	658 7 3½	740 12 1½
Michael's	296 7 5	247 19 11	296 5 7	287 9 3	282 10 1	231 13 8	267 19 7	277 11 3	293 15 3	308 3 9
Bridget's	349 10 1½	354 2 4	297 6 2	264 0 7½	302 2 10	252 3 4	382 4 5	354 16 6	342 15 2½	358 11 9½
Peter's..	559 6 8	496 9 6½	455 11 6	433 6 2½	490 2 10	466 18 11	488 10 7	419 6 1	419 6 10	491 1 6
Martin's.	277 5 7	285 4 3½	176 15 3½	204 14 0	281 6 8	209 11 3	267 16 5	246 1 2	257 11 1	283 0 7
Olave's...	225 4 2	231 4 10	209 10 11½	127 8 10½	165 12 1	138 7 7	159 9 8	128 13 7	128 13 2	123 17 8½
Totals...	8213 1 2	7138 0 8	6886 17 2½	6324 7 10	6654 12 7½	5773 13 11	6796 1 1	6805 15 3	6080 17 7½	6582 1 9

General Infirmary.

Of this important institution, creditable alike to our county and city, the author was anxious to obtain an accurate and correct account, from its first establishment. It was desirable, also, to ascertain its capabilities in the promotion of its grand objects, as well as to form an estimate of its merits, as compared with other similar public hospitals. In the prosecution of such a sketch as this, he was deeply sensible of his own inability, particularly as arising from a want of professional and scientific knowledge, the absence of which must have left his design, in several of its most important particulars, exceedingly defective. He has had the good fortune, however, to be relieved from this dilemma, by the kindness of a gentleman every way competent to the task, who in compliance with the author's request, consented to draw up the following summary. It is somewhat longer than the limits of the work will with propriety allow, but I am unwilling to curtail any part of it, lest the public should be deprived of a particle of its benefits, but may be allowed to print the article in a smaller type.

This noble and comprehensive charity was instituted April 1765, and opened, with the consent of the corporation, in the unoccupied part of the Blue-school, Northgate-street, January, 1756.

Sir Richard Brooke, Bart. }
 Trafford Barnston, Esq. } Treasurers.
 William Cowper, M.D. }

Mr. Robert Barnston, Deputy-Treasurer.

Dr. Weaver, }
 Dr. Hayes, } Physicians.
 Dr. Denton, }
 Dr. Tylston, }

Mr. Venables, }
 Mr. Cotgrave, } Surgeons.
 Mr. Vaughan, }
 Mr. Racketta, }

House-Apothecary, Mr. Thomas Crane.

It was soon discovered, however, that the building in question was but ill adapted for the purpose of a general and county hospital, and it appears by the report of 1758, that the governors, after long and unsuccessful attempts to possess themselves of a piece of ground lying eastward of St. John's church for the building of a new Infirmary, considered themselves fortunate that they were disappointed of the purchase, a more convenient situation being pitched upon, adjoining the city walls, and not far distant from the Water-tower.

The Infirmary, therefore, properly so called, was erected in 1761, and as for convenience and salubrity of station, few public institutions are more favourably circumstanced. It stands at an elevation of about 60 feet above the level of the river Dee, at low water, and commands a delightful view of the mountains dividing the counties of Flint and Denbigh.

The plan of the building is that of a quadrangle of four stories, fronting the west, with an area of 54 feet by 42 in the centre. The sunk or basement story consists of a series of arched cellars and other apartments, with fire places, but being badly lighted, drained, and ventilated, they have hitherto been of little use. The ground floor is occupied by offices defended from the weather by a corridor, or open gallery, running round the interior of the building, while the first and second floors are appropriated to lodging the sick and hurt.

The principal wards lie to the north and south, and run the whole length (100 feet) of the Infirmary. Each ward contains 24 beds, ranging along the opposite sides—and as for the east and west sides of the quadrangle, they are taken up with stair-cases, chapel, and four small rooms, for nurses, &c. looking (see plate) into the area.

From what has been said it will in the present day be generally admitted, that the original plan of our Infirmary was defective, as in addition to the want of day-rooms, &c. for the convalescent, there was no provision made for the separation and classification of patients, according to disease and urgency of symptoms. “Whoever has frequented,” says Dr. Aiken, “the miserable habitations of the lowest class of poor, and has seen disease aggravated by a total want of every comfort arising from suitable diet, cleanliness and medicine, must be struck with pleasure at the change on their admission into an hospital, where these wants are abundantly supplied, and where a number of skilful persons are co-operating for their relief. On the other hand, when he walks through the long wards of a crowded hospital, and surveys the languid countenances of the patients—when he feels the peculiarly noisome effluvia so unfriendly to every vigorous principle of life, and compares their transient effect upon him, with that to be expected by those who are constantly breathing them, and imbibing them at every pore, he will be apt to look upon a hospital as a dismal prison, where the sick are shut up from the rest of mankind to perish by mutual contagion.

“The disposition of the lodging-rooms (continues the same author) into long wards, is a pernicious fault, insomuch that I would assign it as the principal cause of bad air in hospitals, and it is evident that this must be the case from the very reason which led to the contrivance; viz. that a large number might be lodged in a small space. Every person even in health, by his breath and the effluvia arising from his body vitiates a quantity of air around him; and the only reason why we do not in general perceive any bad effects from the poison generated by this vitiation is that it is usually diluted with a large quantity of fresh air, and carried off by a free circulation. If the quantity of air be lessened, or its circulation impeded, noxious effects will be proportionally shown. The degree to which this may be done without producing any injury of consequence cannot be exactly ascertained; but there is no doubt that it must become hurtful when such a number as from 20 to 50 persons, many of them afflicted with ulcers and other diseases, which tend to aggravate the putrescency of the fluids, are constantly confined together in a room just large enough to hold their beds. The circumstance of continuing through the day in the room where they slept, is a considerable aggravation of the evil. The bed cloaths acquire a strong impregnation from the perspired vapours of the night, as is evident on first entering the bed chamber of a single person in health, and their soft porous texture renders them extremely tenacious of every kind of affluvia. It would therefore be a good regulation in every hospital, especially such as are in any degree crowded, that all the patients who are capable of sitting up should remain through the day in large airy halls, and that their wards and bedding should, in the mean time, be as much as possible exposed to ventilation.”

In making these quotations, my design is far from wishing to raise a prejudice against this or any other similar charity; on the contrary, my object

is to introduce the Chester Infirmary to the notice of the public, improved agreeably to the suggestions of reason and experience, and by far the most valuable of the numerous charitable institutions in this ancient city. "We hold that the defects of all establishments whose aim is the alleviation of human misery, should be fairly stated, that their supporters may be continually animated by the desire of improvement and unwearied in their exertions to effect it."

For the last six years persevering endeavours have been made by a respectable body of subscribers to introduce the improvements adopted "in plan as well as in government," at other similar institutions. That a diversity of opinion on these topics should have prevailed is hardly to be wondered at. Happily, however, opposition may be said to be at an end, and it is devoutly to be hoped that all future difficulties "will be surmounted by the zealous and harmonious co-operation of the real friends of this noble institution."

" 17th Nov. 1829.

" At a Stated General Board holden this day ; present Lord Belgrave, president, the Lord Bishop of Chester, &c. &c.

" It was resolved,

" That a dispensary branch be added to this institution, and that a committee of seven gentlemen be appointed (three to be a quorum) to decide which of the plans in the report (read this day) shall be adopted. The following to form the committee :—Rev. J. Briggs, Mr. Simon Snow, Mr. Morrall, Mr. Swanwick, Captain Wrench, Major Tomkinson, and the Very Rev. the Dean of Chester.

" That the board is most anxious to see the acknowledged improvements which have been adopted as well in plan as in government of other charitable medical institutions, carried into effect with the least possible delay at the Chester Infirmary.

" That this board in furtherance of this object, appoint the following committee to alter and repair the Infirmary ; for which purpose it authorises the sale of stock not exceeding £2000, and commits the outlay of this sum to their discretion and judgment. (Four to form a quorum.) The committee to consist of the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Chester, Sir F. Cunliffe, Bart. W. Tomkinson, Esq. R. G. Perryn, Esq. H. Potts, Esq. the Rev. J. Briggs, and Lord Belgrave. The first meeting of this committee to be at half-past twelve on Tuesday next.

" That the thanks of this board be given to Lord Belgrave for his efficient services in the chair."

In attempting to convey an idea of the improvements effected, I shall begin with the labours of the building committee, of whose zeal and efficiency it would be impossible to speak in terms of too high praise.

By forming an area round three sides of the building, an admirable wash-house, laundry, and drying-room, in the basement (to the east) have been obtained, while the greater part of the premises to the north are rendered available as laboratories, store rooms, &c. &c. The rooms to the front are particularly light and airy, and as they are furnished with chimnies may, if wanted, be readily converted into wards for receiving patients labouring under the higher forms of delirium, epilepsy, hysteria, &c. Nor should it be forgotten, the said wards would be well adapted (being completely separated

from the other wards) for treating cases of casual small-pox, and other infectious diseases hardly admissible, regard being paid to the safety of others in the ordinary wards of an Infirmary.

The brew-house and cellars remain as formerly, save inasmuch as they now are drained and ventilated; and in general terms it may be asserted that the improvements realized in this story would justify the expenditure of nearly the whole sum (£2000) voted for repairing and altering the Infirmary.

On the ground floor important improvements have also been made—thus an independent suite of apartments for the dispensary branch of the charity, consisting of a waiting room for patients, a medical shop, a prescribing and an examining room for the physician and surgeon in attendance, and a sitting and bed room for the visiting surgeon, have been provided, leaving the following range of offices for the hospital:—viz. board-room, library, medical shop, house-surgeon's sitting and bed-room, pupil's bed-room, matron's parlour and dining-room, servants' bed-room, kitchen and back-kitchen, matron's office and store-room.

To make up for the waiting and receiving rooms displaced by the dispensary arrangements, it is intended that the in-patients on Tuesdays, shall assemble in the entrance-hall, and that the library be used the same days as the admission room; half the spaces under the nurses' rooms (see plan) are occupied by boilers for supplying water and steam to a set of six convertible baths, hot, cold, shower, and vapour. The two adjoining the rooms in which the boilers are placed are for the use of the public, one for the rich upon the payment of the usual charge, the other for the dispensary patients, gratis. The remaining four on the first and second floors are for the use of patients, male and female respectively.

By referring to the comparative plan, it will be perceived that the galleries, nurses' rooms, baths, and water closets are altogether new or super-added; that the long wards are divided, and that the small rooms to the east and west have become, by throwing the passages in front into them, the most desirable wards in the Infirmary.

It is proposed to make the wards to the east into day or dining-rooms, and those to the front of the building into sleeping-rooms for the convalescent, thus providing a change of air and scene, with the advantage of the exercise of walking, without incurring the risk of disturbing their neighbours, confined to bed through accident or by dangerous illness.

The plan of the second floor as to galleries, &c. is similar to the first, and inasmuch as the fever-wards were originally fitted up in a temporary manner, by merely dividing the long ward to the north by a wooden partition for men and women, the addition of day-rooms to the east and west for the convalescent of each sex, forms an important improvement. The wards moreover are now counterceiled, and the establishment of galleries has obviated the necessity of transmitting the female patients through the men's ward as formerly. The nurse's room is placed in the centre, thereby enabling her the better to attend to the sick; and the bath established in this important division of the institution cannot fail to add to the resources of the physician in cases of given emergency. Having thus attempted to develop the domestic improvements, I have now to give an account of the government of the institution, with a notice of the more important alterations made at different times in the regulations.

GOVERNMENT.

The government of this institution is placed in the hands of certain governors, by the name of Governors of the General Infirmary at Chester :— Benefactors of twenty guineas or upwards, at one time, are governors for life ; subscribers of two guineas per annum, or upwards, are governors during payment ; subscribers of one guinea yearly have the privilege of recommending any number of out-patients ; and subscribers of two guineas yearly (governors) have the same privilege as to out-patients, and further, of recommending two in-patients annually. The physicians and surgeons of the Infirmary are governors.

The committee of management consist of twelve governors, exclusively of the president, vice-president, and physician and surgeon in attendance ; four of the twelve go out at each of the stated boards in November and May, when four others are elected, and so on at the end of every six months.

The weekly board of the committee, consisting of three at least, independently of the physician and surgeon of the week, meet every Tuesday, at eleven o'clock, to regulate all matters relating to the discharge and admission of patients, and internal management of the house.

The medical staff of the Infirmary is composed of three physicians and three surgeons, of a house surgeon, and a visiting surgeon for the dispensary. No physician is eligible who is not a graduate of the following universities—Oxford, Cambridge, Dublin, Edinburgh, or Glasgow.

It is to be regretted that the custom of prefacing the annual reports with an address to the public has for many years been discontinued, as surely the auditors might contrive to exhibit the state of the Infirmary in language sufficiently varied to avoid the risk of giving offence to the most fastidious by its sameness. A few extracts from the medical registers of the institution in connexion with meteorological observations for the different months of the year, would prove an endless source of interest to the subscribers in general, and especially to those engaged in the investigation of the influence of the seasons upon public health in different districts.

That the governors of the Chester Infirmary have been honorably distinguished in the race of improvement is unquestionable. In the report for 1778, it is remarked, “ The Infirmary was instituted and maintained by the most amiable principle in the human breast, that of preserving the lives of their fellow-creatures, and of relieving extreme wretchedness when oppressed with disease and poverty. Incited by the same humane principle, the Governors of the charity have extended their patronage to another benevolent institution.”

At a special general board, held at the Infirmary on the 12th of Nov. 1778, rewards were offered for recovering persons apparently dead ; being convinced by the most incontrovertible evidence that persons recoverable by proper treatment, have often lost their lives from being falsely supposed dead, by drowning.

In imitation of the Royal Humane Society, instituted in 1774, rewards were offered to those persons affording the first assistance ; the physicians and surgeons of the Infirmary engaged to give their assistance when called to unhappy sufferers ; the best method of treatment for recovering persons apparently dead was published in the Chester Courant and Chronicle, and also

printed on a separate paper, in order to be dispersed wherever there was a probability of being useful.

In the report for the following year it is stated, "We now beg leave to call the public attention to another point, viz. the scheme for preventing the progress of the natural small pox, and for general inoculation. This is carried on by a separate fund, (like the Humane Society.) In favour of the practice of inoculation it is observed, scarcely one in a hundred dies of the inoculated patients, and about one in five of those who take the natural small pox, so that we may fairly conclude the inoculation of a hundred patients may be the saving of nineteen lives."

The report concludes by recommending to the subscribers a stricter attention to the general meetings, and even to particular board days, as the burden of attendance often lay on the gentlemen of the faculty, of whose unwearied zeal and attention to every point wherein they can be useful, deserve the thanks of all who wish well to the Infirmary.

It is proper to explain, say the auditors for 1783, "what we think a very important improvement in the regulations of this charity. According to the statutes of most Infirmarys infectious diseases are excluded, particularly infectious fevers. By this prohibition the most distressed and afflicted objects have been rendered incapable of relief from this charitable establishment. When a fever comes into a poor family it is generally propagated by infection. The whole family are frequently seized one after another, and exhibit a scene of wretchedness the most completely miserable; they become incapable of assisting one another, and the neighbours are unwilling to offer them assistance through fear of the infection; they have hitherto been deprived of the aid of hospitals, lest the infection should spread to the other patients, but the institution of the small-pox society has taught us with what ease and certainty even that most pestilential infection may be avoided by the observance of a few simple regulations.

"Last autumn more putrid fevers appeared in Chester than at any time since the year 1774, they had spread through many poor families; the injury they had already done, and the still greater injury that might reasonably be apprehended, induced the governors to comply *with the advice of the Physicians* to admit fevers into separate apartments of the Infirmary. This measure has been justified, as in no instance was the infection communicated, but to one of the attendants on the fever patients. Thirty cases of fever were admitted, many of them in the most imminent danger, yet they all, except one recovered. The mischief prevented in this way can only be calculated by the fatality in other towns where the same fever has raged, and this useful regulation has not been adopted."

To deny the existence of febrile contagion, would be to set aside every law of medical evidence. There is no doubt, however, that many cases of fever are referred to *subsisting* contagion, that really depend upon local causes, aided by poverty, the want of fresh air, and of personal cleanliness: hence the humanity of removing fever patients in general to dry, lofty, and well aired apartments, as the chance of recovery will be greatly advanced by a change of station, whether the disease shall have sprung from either malaria or contagion. That the correspondence and publications of the late Dr. Haygarth have had an extensive influence on the opinions of physicians, as to the laws of contagion, can hardly be doubted; but in tracing the progress of improve-

ment, it is not to be forgotten that the quarantine laws, illustrated by the writings of M'Kenzie, Russell, Bruce, Howard, and others, on the plague, must have prepared the public mind in some degree for the reception of the doctrines taught by that truly eminent physician, touching the limited influence of contagion in small-pox, as well as in typhus or contagious fever.

The venerable and excellent Dr. Currie, who was united with the late Dr. Haygarth in the above honourable recommendation, observes in a letter to his kinsman, Dr. Currie, of Liverpool, dated 15th August, 1802 :—"I constantly attended the Infirmary for 16 years, and there never was at any one time reason to suspect that contagion had been communicated from the fever-wards to the other patients in the house. With proper attention to separation, ventilation, and cleanliness, patients in fevers may, I am confident, be admitted into every Infirmary, with the greatest benefit to the sick, and with the most perfect safety to the other patients. By an early removal of the sick from their own houses to the fever wards, the future important object is obtained of checking the progress of contagion in the town. When it is considered that the limited sphere of contagion is clearly ascertained, it is surprising that well-informed medical men can entertain doubts of the expediency of a measure, that promises to be so highly beneficial to mankind." From the date of the fever wards to 1827, a period of 43 years, it does not appear that any decided improvement in the economy of our Infirmary has been made. At the latter period an important change was effected in its regulations by transferring the management of its affairs from open weekly boards to a committee of management, in the hopes that an increased degree of order, consistency, and practical efficiency would be given to the proceedings of the institution.

Upon the institution of the fever-wards in 1784, it appears that each patient was charged 7d. per day towards defraying the expence of his board. In March, 1805, it was resolved, that the charge should be increased from 7d. to 1s. and it stands recorded that the important sum of £218. 7s. 0d. was so raised in 1819. The governors of the Chester Infirmary have therefore the additional merit of having been among the first to apply the self-supporting principle to medical charity.*

* Mr. Smith, surgeon, Southam, has deservedly obtained much credit for his exertions to introduce "Independent medical charities" to the notice of the public, but a regard for historical truth demands it should be recorded, that an independent Dispensary was instituted at Oxford, 1807, and further that the principle of mutual insurance is extensively acted upon at the North Stafford Infirmary under the head of "Establishment Subscriptions." In 1810, proposals were circulated for extending the plan, and perpetuating the utility of the Denbigh Dispensary, by erecting a public building with a suite of apartments for the purpose of a Dispensary properly so called, with a few rooms or wards for accommodating the occasional demand, and varying circumstances of accident, disease, and poverty, upon the express principle, that each patient admitted should pay a stated weekly sum towards defraying the expence of his board, either by himself, by his friends, or by the overseers of his parish. It is well known to those who have visited the medical establishments on the Continent, that there exist in France, under the name of Maisons de Sante, houses for the reception of the sick, in which though partly maintained by the public, the patients admitted into them pay weekly sums proportional to the accommodations they enjoy. In 1821, an asylum for the recovery of health was opened in London upon this plan, whereby the three following advantages are obtained : 1st, Such as are poor, but not wholly without property or resource, are provided with accommodations more suitable to their circumstances than they could obtain in public hospitals. 2nd, The hospitals are relieved by excluding persons that ought not to be wholly maintained by charity, and they are consequently able to receive

DISPENSARY.

It will be recollected that at the stated general board, holden on the 17th of November, 1829, it was resolved, that a Dispensary branch be added to the institution. I shall therefore conclude my account of the Infirmary, by giving an outline of that important measure.

This improvement was strongly recommended in the report of the committee appointed to revise the rules in 1827. For several years after the institution of the Infirmary, in 1756, the establishment of Dispensaries for the relieving the sick poor at their own habitations was unknown. The first of the improved London Dispensaries (the Aldersgate-street) was opened in 1770, and the only provision made by the rules of the Infirmary in 1756, 1763, 1799, 1816 and 1827, was that out-patients be admitted one stated day weekly (Tuesday), between the hours of eleven and twelve, and be assisted "with advice and medicine, and be no other way chargeable to the institution, and that they bring fillets for bleeding, and phials and gallipots for medicine, and that such patients as shall absent themselves for two Fridays successively, without leave from their physician or surgeon, shall be discharged."

Such were the rules for the out-patients, but it will readily be admitted, that "a well conducted Dispensary has the advantage of administering comfort and relief to poor families over every other variety of charity, as the best medical assistance at a light expence, compared to that of an hospital, may be extended to them without mingling with diseased and dying strangers, or depriving them of the soothing attentions of their nearest relatives."

In reference to the expence arising from this new branch of the charity, it is calculated that a slight addition (£10.) will only be made to the burthens of the Infirmary, for "many in-patients would greatly prefer the comforts of home with the most scanty provision of the necessaries of life, to the wards of an Infirmary, provided they could command (free of expence) proper medical assistance," and it is not to be forgotten that a saving upon each patient treated AT HOME will be effected in the proportion of one to twenty, in that of three shillings to three pounds!

The following are the rules agreed upon for the government of this department of charity. They are substantially the same with those given in by the Dispensary committee to the stated board of the 17th of Nov. last:—

1. That a new medical officer be appointed under the name of visiting surgeon, whose whole time shall be given to the duties of his appointment, that he shall reside within the Infirmary, shall attend in the apartment appropriated to the Dispensary branch, at such hours as the committee of management shall from time to time appoint, for the purpose of dispensing medicines.

2. That an apprentice to this visiting surgeon be admitted, on payment of a fee of 200 guineas for five years.

a larger number of the totally destitute. 3rd, Persons unable from the absence of domestic connexions, as well as narrowness of income to procure for themselves the attentions and comforts which a state of sickness requires, are provided with proper nurses, separate apartments, and other conveniences which could not be obtained at their own houses. At Nottingham, fever-wards were opened in 1827, when the sum of 10s. 6d. weekly was ordered to be paid, besides a fee of one guinea to the physician in attendance for each patient admitted.---The reader, therefore, will be surprised to hear, that the enlightened principle of receiving weekly payments for fever-patients at the Chester Infirmary was given up in 1823, thus reducing the income of the charity, upon an average of seven years, by the sum of 80l. annually.

3. That the salary of the visiting surgeon be sixty pounds per annum.
4. That the qualifications necessary for this office be the same as for the office of house-surgeon.
5. That drugs and other necessary articles be provided by the visiting surgeon, under the direction of the committee of management.
6. That all medicines for the out-patients be dispensed by the visiting surgeon, or his apprentice under his direction, with a label affixed to each medicine, specifying the patient's name, and directions for using the same.
7. That ordinary out-patients be admitted on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays; their letters of recommendation being presented for that purpose between nine and eleven o'clock in the forenoon, and that they fall to the care of the physician or surgeon of the day; such out-patients shall attend at the dispensary the same day in each subsequent week, unless their physician or surgeon authorize their absence, or appoint a different day.
8. That in extraordinary cases, patients being too ill to attend in person, may be admitted by the visiting surgeon on other days, their letters of recommendation being presented to him before nine o'clock in the forenoon.
9. That these home patients be required to attend as soon as they shall be able, like other out-patients, at the Dispensary, and in the meantime that they be visited by the visiting surgeon, who shall report their cases to the physician or surgeon of the week, and shall either prescribe for them himself, or shall act under the orders of the physician or surgeon, in whose week they are admitted, according as such physician or surgeon shall direct.
10. That in like manner, when ordinary out-patients shall be prevented by increased illness from attending at the Dispensary, they shall be visited by the visiting surgeon at their homes, who shall report their cases to their respective physician or surgeon, at such time as such physician or surgeon shall direct, and shall either prescribe or not as he shall be then directed.
11. That all patients be regularly discharged by the committee of management, upon presenting a card from their respective physician or surgeon for that purpose.
12. That no patient be allowed to remain on the book of any physician or surgeon for a longer period than eight weeks, after which time he may be re-admitted on bringing a fresh recommendation.
13. That the apprentice to the visiting surgeon do in no case prescribe for patients.
14. That a register be presented every week to the committee of management, and left in the board room for the inspection of subscribers, specifying under the hand of the visiting surgeon, when every home patient was prescribed for, and by whom.
15. That the visiting surgeon keep an assortment of the best London and other trusses, to be supplied to the afflicted poor at prime cost.
16. That the visiting surgeon particularly attend to the practice and progress of vaccination; and that he be constantly provided with supplies of fresh virus to be furnished (on recommendation of governors) to country practitioners.
17. That such laws of the Infirmary as are applicable to the Dispensary branch of the charity, be referred to for the regulation of those matters not provided for in the preceding rules.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The Infirmary was originally planned to contain 100 beds, thus affording about 1000 cubic feet of space to each patient; by the recent improvements and additions, the same number of patients will enjoy, inclusive of galleries and day-rooms, upwards of 1600 feet each, and it is a fact never to be forgotten, that the general salubrity of an hospital, under similar circumstances, is in proportion to the space allowed to the sick.

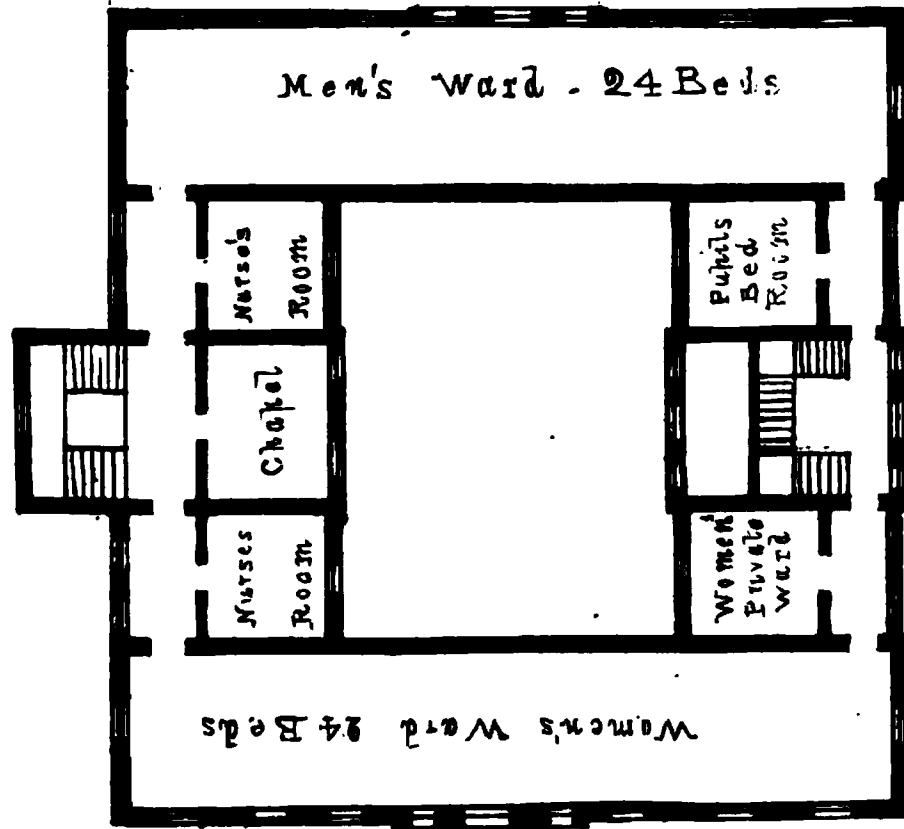
The following is the enumeration and appropriation of the wards of the Infirmary :—

FIRST FLOOR—Male Patients, to the South.

No. 1. Day or Dining-room.—2. Surgical Ward, ten beds.—3. Medical Ward, ten beds.—4. Convalescent Ward, six beds.—5. Accident Ward, four beds.

Female Apartments to the North.

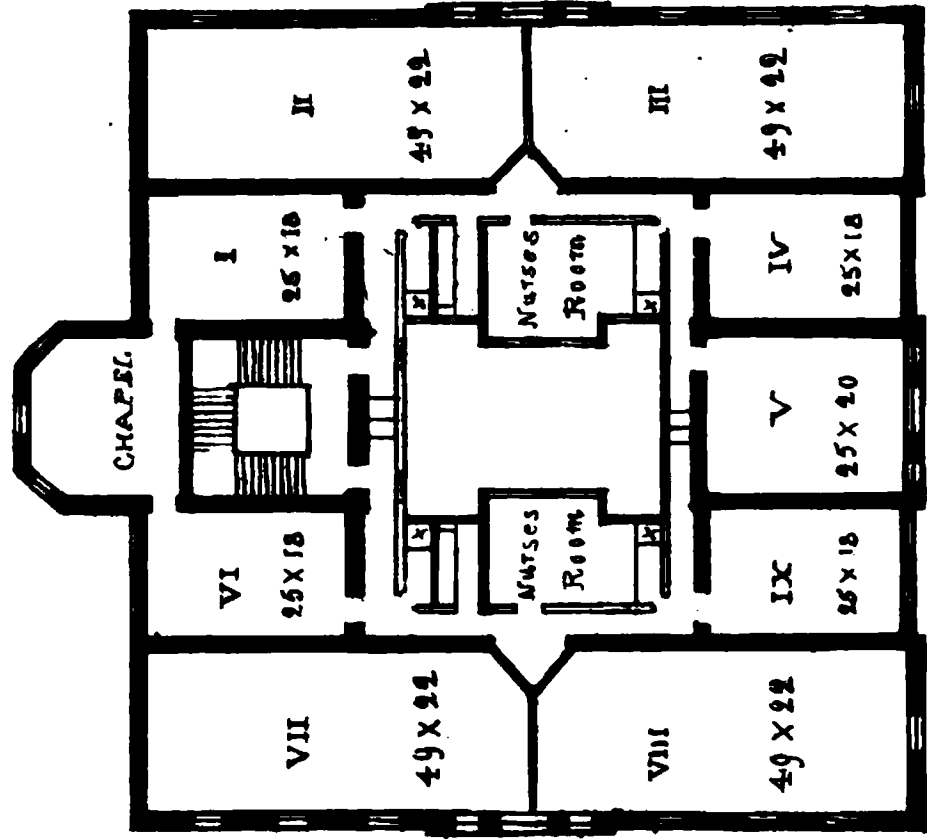
No. 6. Day or Dining-room.—7. Surgical Ward, ten beds.—8. Medical Ward, ten beds.—9. Convalescent Ward, six beds.



FIRST FLOOR OF THE

CHESTER INFIRMARY.

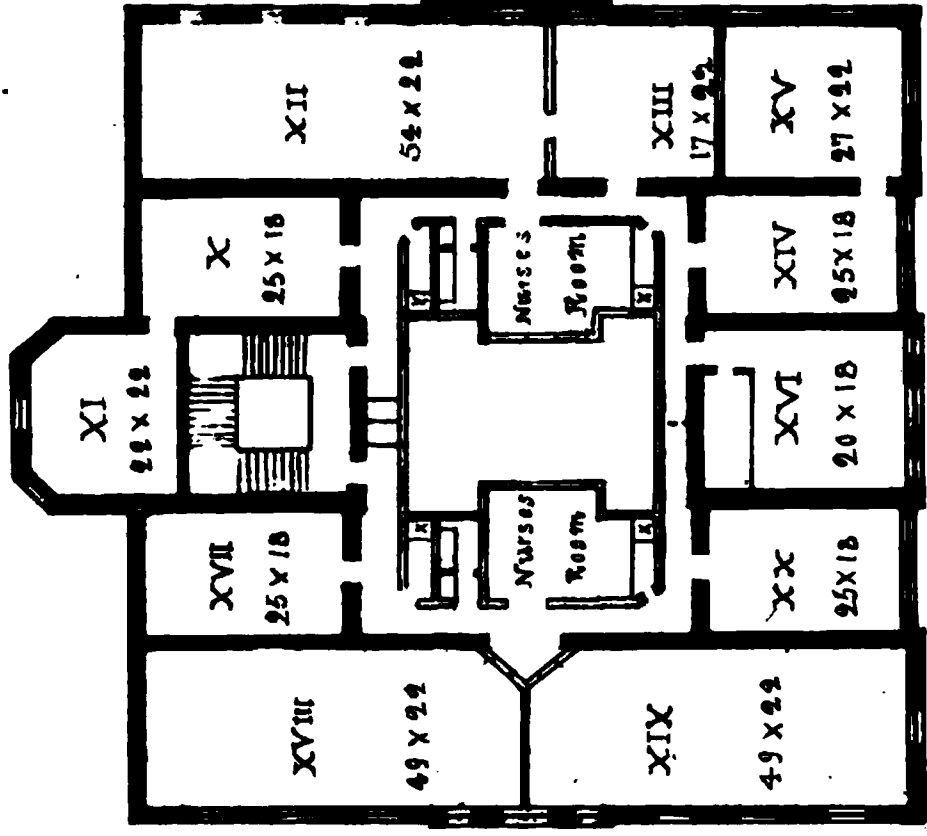
Original Plan 1761.



FIRST FLOOR OF THE

CHESTER INFIRMARY

Improved Plan 1830.



SECOND FLOOR OF THE

CHESTER INFIRMARY

Improved Plan 1830.

SECOND FLOOR—Surgical Wards to the South.

No. 10 and 11. Magdalen Wards, eight beds.—12. Ward for Sores, men, ten beds.—13. Ophthalmic Ward, men, four beds.—14. Theatre for Operations.—15. Operation Ward for men, three beds.—16. Ditto for women, three beds.

Medical Wards to the North.

No. 17. Convalescent Fever Ward for men, three beds.—18. Fever Ward for ditto, ten beds.—19. Ditto for women, ten beds.—20. Convalescent Ward for ditto, three beds.

In all twenty wards, with four excellent nurses' rooms, four convertible baths ; hot, cold, shower, and vapour baths ; nine water-closets, abundantly supplied with water ; with airy galleries connecting the different wards, and well adapted for the exercise of the convalescent in unfavourable weather.

ACCOUNTS.

The annual accounts commence on the 25th of March, and they are made up to the same date the following year. In 1757, the annual subscriptions amounted to £680 ; in 1798, to £798 ; and the interest on the funded property, £142. ; in 1818, to £1202 2s. 6d. ; and in 1829, to £984. The interest of the funded property amounted in 1818, to £550 16s. 10d. ; and in 1829, to £633. 12s. 2d. shewing that the increase of the permanent fund is by no means equal to the falling off in the annual subscriptions during the same period.

Dividing, therefore, the expenditure, £2446, by the number of patients, 641, discharged, the average of expence (inclusive of repairs, and the cost of medicines for the out-patients) will be for each in-patient £3. 16s. 3d. in 1829. The average number of in-patients in 1829, was 66 ; that of the out-patients, 134.—Total of patients admitted since the opening of the institution in 1756, 133,828.

LIST OF MEDICAL OFFICERS,

From the commencement of the Institution.

Those marked with an (*) are in office Nov. 1830.

PAYSIKIANS.

1755 J. Weaver
1755 T. Hayes
1755 A. Densen
1755 J. Tylston
1766 J. Haygarth
1767 W. Falconer
1773 W. Currie
(Resigned in 1799, re-elected 1800.)
1790 W. Houghton
1798 W. M. Thackeray
1798 J. Arden
1799 R. F. Currie
(Resigned in 1800, re-elected 1801.)
1804 G. Cumming*
(Resigned in 1806, re-elected 1827.)
1805 J. Larden
1807 R. Barker
1807 J. M. B. Pigot
1814 L. Jones*
1814 C. Whittell
1829 E. T. Luscombe.*

SURGEONS.

1755 G. Venables
1755 J. Cotgreave
1755 R. H. Vaughan, Bart.
1755 A. Racketta
1763 J. Keay
1763 J. Edwards
1767 J. Frodsham
1767 G. Johnson
1770 D. Orred
1773 C. Morrall
1785 G. Rowlands
1787 S. Freeman
1795 C. Morrall, Jun.
1801 S. N. Bennett*
1803 W. Wynne
1806 T. Bagnall*
1809 O. Titley
1828 G. Harrison.*

The preceding account, drawn up as before remarked, by a gentleman conversant with the concerns of the establishment, develops some interesting facts which cannot but be gratifying to its friends, and particularly as it exhibits a material increase of its funds and capabilities of good within the last *thirty years*. In 1801,* when its annual subscriptions were but 923*l.* 10*s.* and its funded property only 219*l.* it was found necessary to restrict its benefits; and at a special general board, held on the 27th of Oct. in that year, when forty-seven governors were present, it was resolved, "that no more than thirty in-patients be admitted, exclusive of fever-patients." By a strict regard to economic arrangements, however, coupled with the persevering efforts of the weekly boards of that and the subsequent period, the institution was soon recovered from its state of comparative depression; its annual income and permanent property were considerably augmented, as may be seen by a reference to the preceding statement of the *accounts*, or to the subsequent *table* of the sources of income; so that being enabled to remove the restriction as to the number of in-patients, upwards of *eighty* were usually inmates of the house.

Without giving an opinion on the subject, the gentleman who has favoured me with his kind assistance states, that in 1827, "an important change was effected in the regulations of the house, by transferring the management of its affairs from open weekly boards to a committee of management." I have no disposition whatever to enter into a discussion on the comparative merits of the two modes of government; but I may be allowed to say, because I know the fact, that many respectable gentlemen, zealous friends of the charity, are strongly

* At this period, the difficulties of the Infirmary had been yearly increasing. The weekly board called the governors together, to consider what means should be adapted to maintain the establishment, when it was determined to have a charitable assembly at the Exchange, to solicit the clergy and ministers of different congregations to preach sermons, and to entreat an augmentation of subscriptions.

prepossessed in favour of that which is abolished, as best calculated to effect the greatest good ; first, because an efficient number of the definite members of the committee can seldom be brought to attend the weekly meetings ; and secondly, because the present method excludes many of those governors, whose zeal and experience render their services of the utmost importance to the prosperity of the institution. Of the fact I cannot speak with certainty, but most assuredly a rumour is abroad, that ere long an effort will be made to restore the former arrangement.

The Dispensary branch of the Infirmary has also been noticed in the preceding summary with considerable commendation, and it is not for me to controvert the hypothesis. As a faithful historian, however, it is necessary to be observed, that many of the long-tried friends of the institution decidedly object to it, on account of the additional expence for the salary and maintenance of another medical officer, porter, &c. and because they are of opinion, that the house surgeon has now nothing to do, being confined wholly to the house ; and also, that the sick poor must be left to a young man, just escaped from the schools, who will probably, from the smallness of the salary, be changed every year.

There is one topic yet remains on which I beg to offer a few words. Speaking of the modes whereby the interests of this noble charity might be improved, I cannot but express my surprise, that a very natural one has been so long unattended to : I allude to that important branch, which includes the physicians and surgeons. These gentlemen naturally wish, after a certain number of years (say twenty), to retire from the heavy and continual labours of the institution. What should prevent their services being preserved, and their connexion with it prolonged, as physicians and surgeons *extraordinary*—to attend in all cases of difficulty, of consultations, and of operations ? By this means almost all the talent and experience of the medical body in the city would be collected in aid of our sick poor, and the attachment of men

to whom the public are indebted for long and gratuitous services cherished and protracted. Such an arrangement would at once be a just tribute of respect to gentlemen who have so long aided the institution, and of good will to the poor, suffering under disease and accident. Something of this kind would open an honourable retreat to the veteran, and bring into practice a young and distinguished practitioner.

Before taking leave of the Infirmary history, it will be but an act of justice to introduce the respectable name of W. Cole, jun. Esq. who was a pupil of the late Thomas Harrison, Esq. and who has succeeded that gentleman as our county architect. It was from the designs and plans of Mr. Cole that the late valuable improvements were taken, and which, under his sole direction, the building committee have carried into effect. In the above excellent account of the institution, these improvements have received no higher a commendation than they deserve; the author has also reason to know, that they have given great satisfaction to the noble chairman, and several of the county gentlemen who are governors; and to shew the estimation in which Mr. Cole's services were held by the gentlemen engaged in the management, it will be sufficient to quote the following resolution passed at a stated general board, held on the 16th of November, 1830, under the presidency of the Lord Bishop of Chester:—"That the thanks of this meeting be given to Mr. W. Cole, the architect, for the ability and attention he has evinced in the progress of the works at the Infirmary, and the liberality he has shewn on the occasion."—When this sheet was putting to press, the author learnt, that Mr. Cole is about to publish a complete set of plans and sections, shewing more particularly the alterations and additions, with a general description of the advantages gained to the institution; dedicated, by permission, to Lord Viscount Belgrave, chairman of the building committee.

CHESTER INFIRMARY.

Tabular View of Income, made up to Lady-day in each year, from 1790 to 1880.

SOURCES OF INCOME.	1790 to 1800.		1800 to 1810.		1810 to 1820.		1820 to 1830.	
	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.
Subscriptions, average amount of ten years.....	833	3 9	1036	8 2	1153	11 3	1058	18 5
Interest on Stock.....ditto	178	2 1	319	3 1	514	1 6	619	5 4
Donations and Legacies.....ditto	423	14 6	439	12 2	355	4 0	461	14 0
Miscellaneous, including Apprentice Fees, Music Festivals, Balls, Sermons, &c. ..	218	11 8	315	7 6	409	17 4	268	5 0
Total Income.....	1653	12 0	2110	10 11	2432	14 1	2406	2 9

CHESTER INFIRMARY.

Tabular View of Expenditure, made up to Lady-day in each year, from 1790 to 1830.

PROVISION ACCOUNT.	1790 to 1800.		1800	
	£.	s. d.	£.	
Four, Fish, Fowls, Grocery, Eggs, and Malt Liquor ..	500	8 1	696	
Sand, Garden, Oil and Gas dents, Printing, Stationary, identals, and Burials.....	76	6 8	101	
Linen, Woollen, Tin and Earthenware, and Furniture ..	28	12 0	52	
Coals ..	74	1 11	78	
Salaries, Nurses and Servants' Wages ..	186	1 11	200	
Repairs ..	51	4 10	96	
SHOP DEPARTMENT.—Including Apothecary's Incidents, Drugs, Lemons, Phials, Corks, Spirits of Wine, Wine and Spirits, and Surgeon's Incidents ..	535	1 3	391	
Total Expenditure ..	1480	16 8	1612	

PATIENTS ADMITTED.

	1790 to 1800.	1800 to 1810.	1810 to 1820.	1820 to 1830.
Annual average number of In-Patients.....	431.....	439.....	576.....	613
Ditto Out-Patients.....	2340.....	1428 ..	1812.....	2435

Ladies' Benevolent Institution.

This very useful charity was instituted in the year 1798, and owes its origin to the late Mr. Griffith Rowland, surgeon, aided by the ladies of Chester and the neighbourhood, who have ever been warm patronesses of the institution. Its object was the gratuitous delivery of poor married lying-in women at their own houses, and the furnishing them with a certain portion of articles of comfort and necessity. From the first establishment of the charity to the year 1812, Mr. Rowland was the sole superintending accoucher, who had several competent midwives under his direction. At the last-mentioned period, however, several other professional gentlemen were appended to the establishment, and the present surgeons are, Mr. J. Harrison, Mr. G. Harrison, Mr. Davies, Mr. Roberts, and Mr. G. Harrison, jun. These gentlemen attend the charity in monthly rotation, superintend the midwives, and give professional assistance when requisite. The midwives at present employed are, Mrs. Batenham, Mrs. Parry, Mrs. Johnson, and Mrs. Dale. Matron, Mrs. Teggin. Every annual subscriber of half a guinea has the privilege of recommending one poor woman for the benefits of the charity, and more after the same rate. The patients are supplied with the necessary articles of linen, sheets, &c. during their confinement; with two pounds of sugar, a quarter of a pound of tea, and a pound of soap each, but no other provision for food, except from the private assistance of the individual recommending. Baby clothes are found in cases of great poverty, and the children are expected to be vaccinated within the month. The number of poor women delivered in the last year, 297. It appears from the last report, that the funds of this charity are in a most prosperous condition, the receipts amounting in the year 1829, to 346*l.* 14*s.* 2½*d.* and the expenditure only 212*l.* 11*s.* 6½*d.* The revenue arises from annual subscriptions, benefactions, and the interest of money in the public funds.

Chester Penitentiary.

On the scale of public institutions, avowedly charitable in their object, and in number honourable and praiseworthy to our city, the FEMALE PENITENTIARY ranks lower than others only in date, not in goodness of design, nor in the ground of hope for success in the deeds of mercy to be achieved; and the following epitome of its history, from the first organization of the institution down to the present year's operations, may, therefore, be acceptable to the reader, and I shall certainly not regret if in any instances, it should awaken a spirit of sympathy kindred to that of its most liberal friends and supporters.

"An earnest address to the inhabitants of Chester and its vicinity," having been widely circulated, a numerous and highly respectable meeting was held in the assembly room at the Exchange, on Thursday the 8th of February, 1827, John Larden, Esq. the mayor, in the chair, and this institution was established under the title of the "CHESTER FEMALE PENITENTIARY," for the purpose of affording an asylum to females who, having deviated from the paths of virtue, might be desirous of being restored by religious instruction, and the formation of moral and industrious habits, to a respectable station in society. The Right Hon. Earl Grosvenor, and the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Chester, became patrons; the Right Worshipful the Mayor, president; the Hon. Edward Massy, the Very Rev. the Dean, the Venerable Archdeacon Wrangham, and Richard Tyrwhitt, Esq. recorder, vice-presidents; George B. Granville, Esq. treasurer; and the Rev. William Clarke, and Mr. Thomas Whittell, secretaries; who, together with a committee of twenty-four gentlemen, stood pledged, with the help of God, to accomplish the object in view. The appeal just adverted to received the cordial approbation of the christian public, and was answered by the handsome sum of about 900*l.* in donations and annual subscriptions; and after various hindrances (common to the rise and progress of most charitable objects) contended with and

overcome, the committee announced in their second year's report, that a house with premises, situated near the Spittal in Boughton, had been purchased and fitted up to accommodate fifteen or sixteen penitents, at the expence of 715*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*; and that the "CHESTER FEMALE PENITENTIARY" was then open for the reception of applicants; Dr. Thackeray having been appointed physician; Mr. Weaver the surgeon; and Mrs. Moore the matron of the institution; chaplains, Revds. William Clarke, Evan Evans, William Harrison, John Hoskins, and Richard Massie. With regard to the general management, and especially as to the internal economy (confined to a ladies' committee and secretaries) the note below will afford some useful information.*

* The laws and regulations for the government of the institution are well adapted to their proposed objects; they are too voluminous for insertion at length here, but the following abstract will sufficiently develop their general character:—The permanent property of the institution is vested in twelve trustees, of whom the following is the present list:—Lord Viscount Belgrave, Alderman Larden, Dr. Thackeray, Henry Potts, Esq. Rev. Richard Massie, John Fletcher, Esq. Alderman Francis, Hon. Edward Massy, H. R. Hughes, Esq. J. F. Maddock, Esq. Rev. P. W. Hamilton, Thomas Dixon, Esq. The gentlemen's committee to appoint, pay, suspend, and dismiss the stipendiary servants of the institution; and they are also to elect twelve ladies from the list of subscribers, or wives of gentlemen being subscribers, as a committee of ladies. The committee of ladies are to order and superintend the employment, hours of rest, diet, and dress of the penitents, examine their work, converse with them, and read to them; two of them are to visit the house weekly; they have power to expel any female they shall think proper for misbehaviour; and also to appoint a sub-committee to decide as to the admission of applicants into the institution. The chaplains to visit the institution as often as convenient, and to perform divine service at least once every week. The physician and surgeon, whose services are gratuitous, to attend the house whenever required by the ladies' committee or the matron; they must be married men, and not under thirty years of age, and are not permitted to attend any patient, except in the presence of the matron or her assistant. The matron and assistant to be examined and recommended by the ladies' committee, previous to their being appointed by the gentlemen's committee. The duties of the matron comprize, a residence in the house; an observation of the behaviour of the penitents, of which she is to make a report; the care of the household goods and clothes; a due distribution of provisions and other necessaries; to keep a weekly account of the household expences; instruction of the inmates in reading, writing, needle-work, and the operations in the laundry; to assemble the family morning and evening, when a psalm or hymn is to be sung, a chapter in the scriptures read, and

Since the period when the institution was opened, *seventeen* females have been admitted on the books; *eight* have been dismissed or have left for reasons assigned in the reports; and *nine* remain in the house, many of them affording satisfactory evidence of a decided change of heart, and a determination to "flee from the wrath to come."

The annual subscriptions (according to the last year's report) appear to be 138*l.* 1*s.*; and the expences of the house (for an average of about seven patients for the year) 90*l.*; and the matron's salary 30*l.*; sundries 5*l.* 12*s.* 3½*d.* leaving, as it would seem, a balance of about 12*l.* 8*s.* 5½*d.* that is, in the current expenses of the year, and for that limited number of patients. But we understand that the cost of furnishing the house, even upon the most economical terms, and providing the inmates with clothing, has quite exhausted the funds; and that the committee have been forced reluctantly to adopt a resolution that no more than nine females shall be in the institution at one time, until an additional income can be realized. I feel confident however, that a charity, commiserating a most wretched class of outcasts from society, and so

the service to be concluded with prayer. Application for admission to be made to the matron, who is to submit each claim to the sub-committee of ladies, who shall have the power to admit the applicant. After the penitent has been three months in the house, the ladies' committee shall enter in their minute book, that she is then qualified for full admission, when the matron shall admit her accordingly. No penitent to be permitted to go out of the premises without the consent of two of the ladies' committee and of the matron, and only in case of absolute necessity. The employment of the females to be such as may best qualify them, as domestic servants; one fourth of the profit of each female's work to be given her or expended for her, on her leaving the institution, under the direction of the ladies' committee, a reasonable value being fixed upon the services of those who are employed in the kitchen, or other departments of the house. Every female who has left the institution, and has been placed in service, and who shall be recommended by her master or mistress to the ladies' committee, on account of her good behaviour, and reported by them to the gentlemen's committee, shall receive at the end of her first year of service one guinea, and at the end of the second year, if the favourable report is repeated, two guineas. No female after having been once discharged shall, on any account whatever, be received a second time into the penitentiary.

obviously entitled to the support of His followers, who pitied and pardoned a penitent, washing his feet and wiping them with the hairs of her head, cannot long be obliged on such grounds, to close its doors against the very objects whom it was intended, and would rejoice to relieve.

Chester Humane Society.

This very excellent institution, of which Earl Grosvenor is patron, was established in September, 1824, and has hitherto been well supported by donations and annual subscriptions. Its object is to restore persons apparently drowned; as also those who from various causes may be in a state of suspended animation. The city of Chester especially called for such an establishment, the place being nearly surrounded by water, and numerous fatal accidents having actually occurred in several preceding years. The active committee, on their formation, vigorously proceeded in providing the means of assistance, by distributing manuals and posting bills, containing proper instructions. They also procured two cases of resuscitating apparatus, one to be deposited at the house of industry, and one to remain under the care of the secretary; drags were placed in convenient situations; a stomach pump was purchased; and ice-ladders and poles were also procured, and placed at Bache Pool and in the Groves. During the time of severe frost, a number of men are stationed by the society in various places, where the most imminent danger is contemplated, for the express purpose of affording prompt assistance in cases of accident. In February 1829, the society published a list of cases, in number above fifty, wherein the efforts of its agents had been successful in rescuing so many individuals from death or imminent danger. Mr. Thomas Bowers is the efficient secretary of the society.

Besides the above permanent provision made for the aged and sick poor; for the needy female in the hour of

distress ; and for the wretched wanderer from the paths of virtue ; there are several charitable associations mostly in operation, both among the members of the establishment, and the various bodies of dissenters, for relieving the sick and poor at their own habitations with food and clothing. There are also numerous alms-houses, and many valuable bequests for charitable purposes, most of which are elsewhere enumerated.

ENDOWED AND CHARITABLE SCHOOLS.

The King's School.

This school was founded by King Henry VIII. in the 36th year of his reign, for twenty-four boys, to receive 3*l.* 4*s.* each, who are appointed by the dean and chapter. They are not admissible under nine years of age ; they may continue four years, if their conduct is regular, and a year of grace may be added by the dean. Two masters (elected by the dean and chapter) were appointed by the founder's statutes, with salaries of 22*l.* to the head-master, and 10*l.* to the under-master. But by a regulation in 1814, the head-master's salary was increased on the condition that he took the sole charge and instruction of the foundation scholars, and confined the number of his private pupils to six. A part of the old refectory of Chester abbey is used as the school-room.

Blue-coat School.

This school is a handsome brick building, forming three sides of a quadrangle, on the west side of Further Northgate-street, inclosed in front by a lofty iron railing, and occupying the extra-parochial site of the ancient hospital of St. John the Baptist. The south wing is used for a chapel, and is in the patronage of the corporation ; the centre is occupied by schools, and the remaining wing is the residence of the master, and is also

used for other purposes. The foundation of the present establishment took place at the instance of Bishop Stratford, in 1700, and the greatest part of the present building was erected in 1717, at the joint expence of the corporation and the benefactors. The ground whereon this building stands, with the large play-yard, &c. on the west side, was conveyed to trustees by the corporation, for the especial purpose to which it is now appropriated. At present there are twenty-eight boys educated, boarded, and clothed in a blue uniform, who are allowed to remain from the age of twelve to fourteen ; and likewise sixty-four day scholars, called Green Caps, taught by the same master, in accordance with the plans of Bell and Lancaster. The blue-coat boys are usually elected from the green caps. According to the printed report for 1829, the total receipts in that year were 698*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.* including a balance of 43*l.* 3*s.* from the preceding year. This receipt covered the expenses of the establishment for the year, and left a balance of 33*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.* in the hands of the treasurer. The funds of the school are amply sufficient for all its important purposes. Of the revenues above mentioned, about 450*l.* per annum is derived from permanent property in the public funds and landed estates ; the annual subscriptions for the year amounted to 182*l.* 14*s.* 0*d.* and the collections at the churches to 63*l.* 2*s.* 0*d.* The present master is Mr. Samuel Venables, who for a long course of years has obtained the uniform approbation of the board and the public.

Blue Girls' School.

This excellent charity has existed in various forms, and under different modifications for 109 years, being instituted in 1721. During that period it has been under the management of ladies residing in and near Chester, assisted by regular subscribers. The charity has now attained a permanent locality, in St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, where in 1810, the present school-house wa

built, by benefactions, on part of the ground belonging to the trustees of the Infirmary, and granted by them for that sole purpose, on a lease for ninety years, at 6*l.* per annum. The females benefitted by it (16 in number) are properly instructed in religious and moral duties, and taught every part of household business ; such as washing, cleaning, plain cooking, sewing, knitting, &c. They are clothed from the produce of the work done at the school, which, from the industry of the girls, the activity of the matron, and the kindness of numerous friends sending work, amounted during the year ending the 1st of May, 1830, to the sum of 52*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.* Two guineas are given as a bounty when a girl leaves the school for service, which is expended by the mistress, under the superintendence of some of the ladies in useful clothing ; and a further bounty of one guinea, if she remain in her service two years. Seven scholars, called probationers, have latterly been added to the establishment. These probationers are selected alternately from girls taught in the diocesan and the countess Grosvenor's schools ; and from these probationers also are the vacancies in the Blue Girls' school filled up, a procedure, by which the patrons of the latter have the best assurance that can be obtained, of the previous good conduct of their scholars. They are required to attend punctually at nine in the morning, and two in the afternoon during the week, and twice on the Sunday, one hour previous to morning and afternoon service, in order to receive religious instruction, and to accompany the mistress to church. Matron, Mrs. Elizabeth Parry. The concerns of the charity are conducted by a committee of ladies ; a board is held on the first Monday in every month, and a meeting of all the subscribers annually. The revenue of the institution arises from donations, subscriptions, collections in churches, and the interest on funded property ; the proceeds from the girls' work always being appropriated to their clothing, and if there is any surplus, it is added to the general fund. The last report states, that the deficiency of the charity during the last year arises from deaths and change of resi-

dence of the subscribers, and the reduction of the four per cent. stocks; and urges as a motive to renewed energy the following interesting statement:—"Since the establishment of the institution, five hundred females have been educated and discharged, fully competent to undertake domestic situations in families, and have by their faithful and honest servitude demonstrated the deep importance of impressing on youthful minds sound principles of religion and morality."

Consolidated Sunday and Morning School.

This school sprang from a number of smaller ones, which were respectively supported by the benevolence of private individuals. It is entirely composed of about 70 females, who are taught the rudiments of learning, and various branches of plain sewing, &c. The original schools were formed into this one establishment in the year 1816, and a portion of the building occupied by the blue coat scholars assigned to it. Mrs. Ann Richards is the mistress, whose discretion and ability eminently qualify her for the situation. The management is confided to a committee of ladies, under the direction of the national central society in London. The charity is supported by voluntary subscriptions, which, together with a year's dividend on 959*l.* produced in 1829-30, the sum of 94*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.*—the year's disbursements being only 68*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.* Connected with this charity is a fund for clothing the children; the produce of which, with work done by the scholars, and their pennies a week, amounted last year to 34*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.* and the disbursements, independent of several gratuitous presentations, to 25*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.* This charity is very handsomely supported.

Diocesan School.

This institution was established Jan. 2, 1812, by public subscription, under the patronage of the bishop of Chester. Its object and design were to promote the edu-

cation of poor children in the principles of the established church, within the diocese of Chester, by the formation and encouragement of new schools, and the remodelling of old ones if necessary, to be conducted on the Madras system, and in union with the national institution, established in London. It was also designed to afford pecuniary aid to those schools which most needed it ; to supply the school under its care with proper books ; and when a central school should be established, to furnish teachers acquainted with the new system, and capable of arranging and conducting a school ; also to receive and instruct persons who wished to become acquainted with the new mode of teaching. A school was immediately formed on this plan, and for several years embraced all its original objects ; it is now, however, principally confined to the tuition of its own scholars. The building is situated on the south side of the top of George-street ; is 80 feet long by 33 wide, and is capable of instructing 400 children ; there is also a good house adjoining for the master. This, like most of our other public charities, is supported by benefactions and annual subscriptions, and the institution is in a prosperous condition. According to the last report, the number of boys taught in the school is 201. The present master is Mr. Thomas Richards, who has creditably held the situation since the first establishment of the school.

Earl and Countess of Grosvenor's School.

This is a fine lofty brick building, situated on the north-side of St. John's church yard, and was erected in the year 1813, for the gratuitous education of the children of the poor. It consists of two stories, the lower one of which is occupied by boys, and the upper by girls. Both rooms are fitted up in the most complete manner with benches, desks, &c. and capable of holding 800 children. The present number taught are 300 boys and 200 girls. This excellent institution was built at the sole expence of the Earl and Countess of Grosvenor, the latter of whom

takes the females under her especial protection, numbers of whom are annually furnished with decent dresses. By the munificence of these noble individuals also a master and mistress are provided with a handsome salary and a good dwelling-house; the children are entirely supplied with books, slates, and every requisite for tuition; and on New-year's day every year, an excellent dinner of roast beef and plum-pudding is provided at his lordship's cost, who, with other branches of his family, usually attend; when his lordship delivers an appropriate address to the scholars, distributing an immense quantity of books to those children who have been returned by the master as deserving of distinction for their progress in learning or good behaviour. This ceremony is distinguished as peculiarly interesting; and it is one which cannot be witnessed without sensations of delight. Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton have continued to be the judicious master and mistress of this school since its establishment.

Chester Infant Schools.

This interesting institution may be said to have originated with a few benevolent individuals who suggested the desirableness of an Infant School in Chester to the bishop, the Right Rev. Dr. Blomfield, since translated to the see of London. His lordship warmly concurred with them in the design, the civil authorities of the place promptly lent their aid, and at a numerous and respectable meeting of the inhabitants of Chester, holden at the Exchange on the 22nd Nov. 1825, the society was formed according to the plans and regulations proposed by the bishop, who may indeed be regarded as its fostering father.

Its first school, in the Kale Yards, which was raised by subscription, was opened in July, 1826, under the direction of Mrs. Swindells, the mistress of it. The society incurred a debt of about 100*l.* by the erection of the building, &c.; to enable them to pay this, a bazaar was set on foot, under the patronage of Mrs. Blomfield, which was so liberally supported by herself and the ladies of Chester and the neighbourhood, as to produce the sum

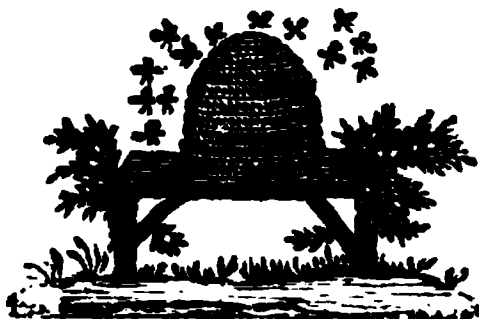
of 3571. The society was thus enabled to extend the benefits of their institution to other parts of Chester. A second school was opened in Boughton in Oct. 1827, of which Mrs. Prichard is the mistress; and in August, 1828, a third school was opened in Handbridge, of which Mrs. Smith is the mistress. There have been about 900 children received into these three schools, which are calculated to accommodate about 380 at once; the number in them at present is 250. The deficiency is at the two last mentioned schools, which will, we trust, be better filled when the inhabitants of those districts have learned to appreciate the benefits which their children might derive from infant education. The schools are supported by the weekly pence paid by the parents, one penny for each child, and by annual subscriptions. The expenditure of the society at present exceeds the receipts by 30% per annum, which I mention here, in the hope that some benevolent individuals whose eye meets this statement, may be induced to contribute to the funds of this excellent charity. The success of its labours has quite equalled the expectations which were formed of it as regards the improvement of the children. Its schools are found to be admirably fitted for the formation of their tempers and dispositions, and it is surprising how much useful knowledge their minds are capable of, even at their early age. I may, however, observe, that in the Chester Infant Schools no endeavour is made to give to the children either such knowledge as is not adapted to their years or to their station in life. They are taught the simple elements of religion, and useful knowledge; they are exercised in the delightful occupation of singing the praises of their great Creator, and are trained up in habits of obedience, of gentleness and love towards each other. These schools thus become useful nurseries for the more advanced national schools. By their joint co-operation, under the Divine blessing, it may be hoped that many children have been effectually brought unto Him, who said, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God."—The Rev. Robert Yarker is secretary and treasurer to the society.

Population of Chester.

THE population of this city has varied at different periods, but has been on the increase almost ever since the time in which we have any authentic data by which to ascertain its extent. By a document given in a preceding part of this work it appears, that in the reign of Edward the Confessor, there were 431 houses in Chester which paid tax to the king, and 56 others which paid tax to the bishop; but it is by no means certain that these numbers included the whole population of the city, as there might have been houses exempt from paying taxes to the king or bishop. It appears from the survey, that when Hugh Lupus received the city of Chester from the hands of William the Conqueror, its value was much diminished from what it had been in the reign of King Edward, 205 houses out of 431, which had formerly paid taxes, being then in ruins, none having been rebuilt when the survey was taken. We have no intermediate accounts of the population of Chester till the year 1774, when the inhabitants having been numbered under the superintendence of the late Dr. Haygarth, then resident in the city, they were found to be 14,713. It appears by the returns made under the act for ascertaining the population of the kingdom in 1801, that the total number of inhabitants was then 15,152; and taking both these accounts to be correct, the actual increase in 27 years was but 793 individuals. The official census of 1811, gives the population at 17,472, shewing the increase within the preceding ten years to be 2,320; and the census of 1821, numbers the inhabitants at 19,949—from which it appears, that the

increase in the interval between 1811 and 1821, was no less than 2477. This statement certainly does not exhibit any symptoms of decay in the ancient city of Chester. By an act passed in the last session of parliament, a new census is directed to be taken in 1831, and if an extraordinary accumulation of dwellings, erected in the city within the last ten years, be a fair criterion, it may be presumed, that our population at that period will nearly approach 24,000. The number of inhabitants, as given in the last census is thus distributed in the different parishes :—

St. Bridget's	805
Cathedral and Little St. John's	270
St. John's	5098
St. Martin's	565
St. Mary's	3376
St. Michael's.....	712
St. Olave's.....	587
St. Oswald's	4334
St. Peter's	1016
Spital Boughton, <i>extra parochial</i> ,	150
Holy Trinity	3036
	<hr/>
	19,949.



The Suburbs.

HAVING noticed the principal objects worthy of observation within the city, I shall briefly direct the reader's attention to the suburbs, and to the main roads leading from thence, taking them in the order of east, west, north, and south. On the eastern part of the city, after passing Boughton, and a little to the left of the turnpike-road, is the village of Christleton, where there is a good church, of which the Rev. Mostyn Lloyd is rector, and the Rev. Evan Evans, curate. In this village there are several excellent mansions and respectable residents, among whom may be numbered Townshend Ince, J. Taylor, Thomas Hodson, — Parkin, Esqrs. and the Rev. Mr. Pulford, the two latter of whom direct prosperous academies for the education of young gentlemen. About a mile from Christleton is the village of Rowton, and three miles from thence of Handley, from whence the road directs to Barnhill, near to which stands Bolesworth Castle, the residence of George Walmsley, Esq. A new line has lately been cut from the foot of the hill to Malpas, through which the coach road now passes to Whitchurch, Shrewsbury, and Birmingham.

From Boughton, another line of road turns to the left, passes Vicar's Cross and Littleton, where there are two elegant mansions, one built by the late Alderman Seller, and the other by Thomas Dixon, Esq. banker; and onward to Tarvin, a respectable village, having a good church, and some excellent houses. Here the main road divides into two, the one taking the direction of the Forest of Delamere, Northwich, and Manchester, and the other passing on to Tarporley and Nantwich, towards London.—At the village of Hoole, on the road leading

from Flookersbrook to the Traffords, Dunham, Frodsham, and Warrington, there are several pleasant mansions, particularly those of the Rev. P. W. Hamilton, J. Sedgwick, Esq. and Lady Broughton, the latter of whom has some of the finest gardens in the county; Henry Hesketh, Esq. and the Misses Parker, not far distant, have also delightfully situated dwellings.

The environs on the western side of the city, approached through the Water-gate, consist principally of a fine level tract of country, called the Sands, about six miles in length, and from two to three in breadth, over which the sea formerly flowed, but which has been recovered from the waters by the persevering efforts of the River Dee Company. This tract of country is divided into good farms, extremely fertile, yielding all kinds of agricultural produce in abundance, and is particularly distinguished for the excellency of its potatoes.

The north part of the vicinity has some excellent land, and two or three good mansions. At Mollington, on the Parkgate road, is a handsome house, the residence of John Feilden, Esq. and at Bache, on the road to Eastham and the ferries on the Mersey, is an ancient hall, occupied by R. H. Hughes, Esq. banker. At a little beyond the latter, a short distance from the road on the left, stands a large building, erected under the direction of the county magistrates, as a county lunatic asylum. This benevolent institution was raised at the expence of the county, to which that never failing source of revenue, the river Weaver, materially contributed. It occupies, with its gardens, airing grounds and roads, ten statute acres of land, which was purchased from the late Rev. Sir Philip Egerton, Bart. The terms for maintaining lunatic paupers belonging to the county are 7s. 6d. per week; and those beyond its limits, 10s. The unfortunate inmates of a higher class are provided for by special agreement. Present number of lunatics in the house between fifty and sixty.

The plan of the building (for which see the accompanying plate), prepared by W. Cole, jun. Esq. county

Engraved by Dean at the ¹/₂ from a sketch by Mrs. W. Dean

CHESHIRE LUNATIC ASYLUM

For Henry George's Lecture July 29

architect, was selected by the county magistrates from a variety of others that were submitted for their consideration (and to it was awarded the first premium), which, with little or no variation, has been carried into effect. The contractor was Mr. W. Quay, of Neston, who has given complete satisfaction in the execution of the work. The building is of brick, with dressings of stone; it was commenced in the month of March, 1827, and *completed* for the reception of patients in September, 1829—a very short period, considering the extent of the undertaking. Ll. Jones, M.D. is the physician, Mr. W. Rose medical superintendant, and Mrs. Bird, matron of the institution.

The following description of this extensive edifice, with its particular arrangements, has been drawn up with great accuracy, and will afford a correct view of its accommodations and arrangements:—

The site of the building is as desirable as could possibly be wished for such an establishment; it is sufficiently elevated, and has a considerable fall to the west, by which means its drainage is complete, rendering thereby the building as well as the grounds perfectly dry. The surrounding country is open, and free from any objects that might obstruct pure air and ventilation; and to the west, which is the prospect seen from the galleries of the patients, commands an extensive and beautiful view into Wales and part of Cheshire.

It was designed to accommodate ninety patients in the whole, with apartments arranged to contain twenty patients out of that number for a better class, who could afford to pay for their own maintenance; the remainder was devoted to pauper patients, to be kept by their respective townships and parishes.

The general form of the building, with its entrance from the main road, its various airing grounds and yards, will be better comprehended from the plan subjoined than from description.

At the general entrance from the main road is situated a lodge, occupied by the gardener and his wife, the latter acting as keeper to this entrance, but the principal and only entrance to the precincts of the establishment is, as shewn on the plan, entered by gates in the great court in front of the building, at which gates is situated, the lodge occupied by the head porter, who is answerable for every person that may go to or from the asylum, or any thing that may be brought out or into it.

The building consists of a centre with two front wings and two return ones; the centre being four stories in height is, with the basement story of the two front wings, devoted to the domestic part of the establishment, whilst the remainder of the front wings, and the whole of the return wings, are occupied by the patients, and are three stories in height, those on the north side of the centre building by the female patients, and those on the south by the male.

On the plan is shewn the domestic yards, that communicate with the basement story of the front wings, which as before-mentioned are devoted to the domestic part of the establishment, and consist, with the basement story of the centre building, of a kitchen and its offices; larder, dairy, and store-rooms; a laundry (in which is fixed a complete drying-stove), and wash-house, a brew and bake-house, with necessary cellars, and other minor offices. Below the basement story and communicating from the sunk area, are situated the stoves for heating and ventilating the building. The basement story itself is five feet below the level of the surrounding ground, but having an area round the whole, laid with flags and well drained, with a sloping bank of grass extending fifteen feet from the building, renders it perfectly dry. In the north and south return wings are the sleeping rooms and galleries of the worst class of patients, with their respective airing grounds Nos. 1 and 8; in the south airing ground No. 1, belonging to the males, is a well of pure spring water, in which is fixed a forcing pump, to fill the cisterns at the top of the building hereafter spoken of, which is worked by means of an upright capstan, with four horizontal arms, and affords exercise to the patients, as twenty may work it at the same time, so that it may become more a source of recreation than labour. There is an internal communication to the galleries on this story from the passages of the offices in the front wings, as well as a direct external one from the domestic yard, the latter being of some consequence to this class of patients, as must be well known to persons at all acquainted with establishments of this kind.

The ground or principal floor is entered from a portico which communicates to the great court by two flights of steps; on this floor in the centre building is situated the superintendant's and matron's sitting rooms, with a physician's room, and waiting room. The sleeping rooms and galleries in the front wings are for the better class of patients, and in the return wings are the sleeping rooms and galleries for the second class of pauper patients; in the east gallery in the return wings are two day rooms Nos. 6, 6, and 7, 7; Nos. 6, 6 being open to the galleries are particularly light and cheerful, and the keeper's rooms being situated at No. 3, with a window looking into the day rooms No. 6, commands a view of what is going forward in both. The arrangements in the front and return wings on the second floor are similar in every respect to the principal floor just described, but in the centre building, over the superintendant's and matron's room and passage is the committee-room, which will likewise serve as a chapel, and the front rooms are occupied by the superintendant as bed-rooms, &c. The whole of the third story of the centre building is taken up by the bed-rooms of the women servants, together with the matrons. The airing grounds Nos. 3 and 8 belong to the north and south galleries of the first floor, and Nos. 5 and 10 to the second floor. The airing grounds Nos. 4 and 9 belong to the galleries of the better class of patients, and from the doors situated at the extremity of the yards Nos. 4, 9, 5 and 10, the better class of patients can communicate with their respective pleasure grounds, and the convalescent paupers admitted to clean the pleasure grounds, or to work in the gardens; each airing ground belonging to the pauper patients is commanded from the windows of its respective day or keeper's room. Nos. 4 and 9 are inspected from the superintendant's and matron's sitting-rooms, and in all the airing grounds covered walks have been erected for the exercise of patients in hot or damp weather.

REFERENCES TO THE ACCOMPANYING PLAN OF THE CHESHIRE LUNATIC ASYLUM.

Center Building.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Superintendant's Room
2 Matron's Room
3 Receiving Room | 4 Apothecary's Room
5 Principal Stair Case
6 Portico |
|---|---|

North Wing—Female Department.

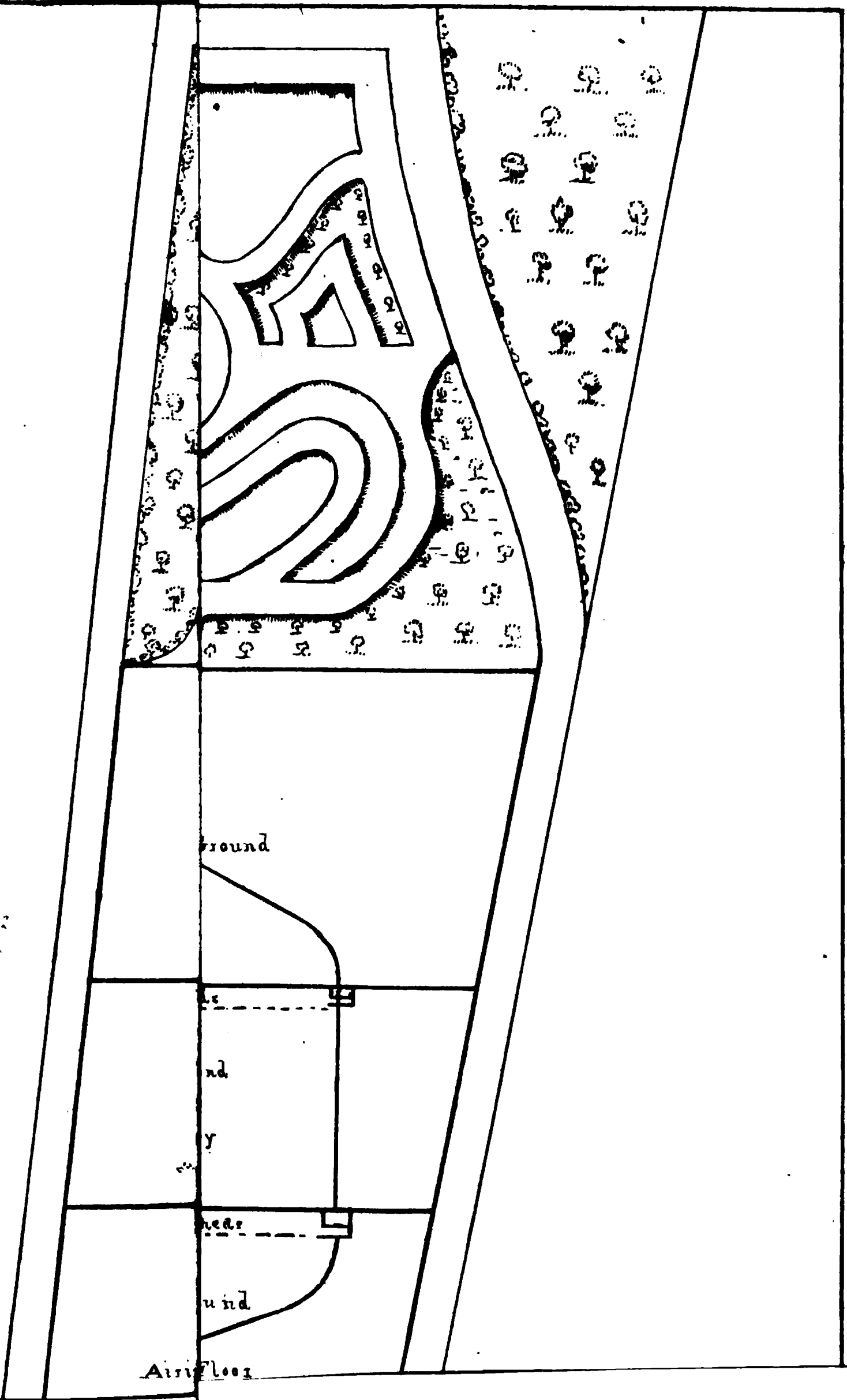
- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 1 1 Galleries
2 2 2 Dormitories
3 Keeper's Room
4 Baths | 5 Water Closets
6 & 7 Day Rooms
9 Patients' Stair Cases from the different
Stories to the Airing Grounds |
|--|--|

South Wing—Male Department.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 1 1 Galleries
2 2 2 Dormitories
3 Keeper's Room
4 Baths | 5 Water Closets
6 & 7 Day Rooms
9 Patients' Stair Case |
|--|---|

The single lines that traverse the Airing Grounds denote the Drains.

- | | |
|--|---|
| A. Domestic Yards
1 1 1 1 Coal Houses, Ash Pit, Cinder Riddle, &c.
2 2 2 Rain Water Cisterns
3 3 Cisterns for washing out the Drains
4 Inner Porter's Lodge
5 Bed Room to ditto | 6 Stables
7 Straw Houses
9 Pits for Waste Straw
9 Dead House
10 Cart Shed
11 Carpenter's Shop. |
|--|---|



Air Floor

100

The general communication for the domestic establishment to the gardens, is from the west entrance, in the centre building, along a passage between the walls of the airing grounds Nos. 4 and 9.

In the centre building is constructed a stone geometrical stair-case (see plan No. 8) from the basement story to the third floor, and is the communication for the establishment to the galleries of the better class of patients, as well as to their own rooms; each gallery in the north and south return wings has a separate and distinct stair-case to its own individual airing ground, and the stair-case marked No. 8 communicates with all the stories in the front and return wings, by which means the keepers are enabled to render immediate assistance to one another in case of need.

Attached to all the galleries upon each story are hot, cold, and shower baths, with closets, sculleries, &c. and an ample provision is made for the supply of water, as over the day room, No. 6, 6; in the front wings are fixed large cisterns, which being regularly filled by means of the pump before-mentioned, supply the whole of the establishment. There are likewise large tanks in the domestic yards that receive the rain water from the roofs, supplying the offices in the basement story with soft water.

The only part of the suburbs remaining to be noticed are those on the south, approached through the Bridge-gate. On the other side of the Dee, stands old Handbridge, where in the olden times, if tradition is to be credited, many a mortal conflict has taken place between the citizens and their Welsh invaders; and near to which, a little inclining to the west, are yet to be seen a curious relique of antiquity. In a field on the right of Handbridge, called *Edgar's Field*, is an ancient piece of sculpture, supposed to be intended for the figure of *Pallas* (the *Dea armigera* of the Romans). The goddess appears in her warlike dress, with her bird and altar. Adjoining this figure, is a considerable indention in the rock, to which tradition has given the name of Edgar's cave. The sculpture is certainly of great antiquity, being noticed by Malmesbury, who wrote in 1140; by Hoveden, in 1192; by Selden, Camden, the Polychronicon, and the Saxon Chronicle; and Dr. Cowper, in a note on his "Il Penseroso," about 1747, says, "The foundations of his (Edgar's) princely mansion, are now *apparent* just below Chester bridge southward." Beyond this, several centuries ago, stood some ancient buildings, whose site is marked by certain hollows; for, says Pennant, who wrote about 1778, the ground (probably over the vaults) gave

way and fell in within the remembrance of persons now alive. Tradition calls the spot the site of the palace of Edgar. Nothing is now left, from which any judgment can be formed, whether it had been a *Roman* building, as Dr. Stukeley surmises; or *Saxon*, according to the present notion; or *Norman*, according to *Braun*, who, in his ancient plan of this city,* styles the ruins, then actually existing, *Ruinosa domus Comitum Cestriensis*. Perhaps it might have been used successively by one of them, who added or improved according to their respective national modes.

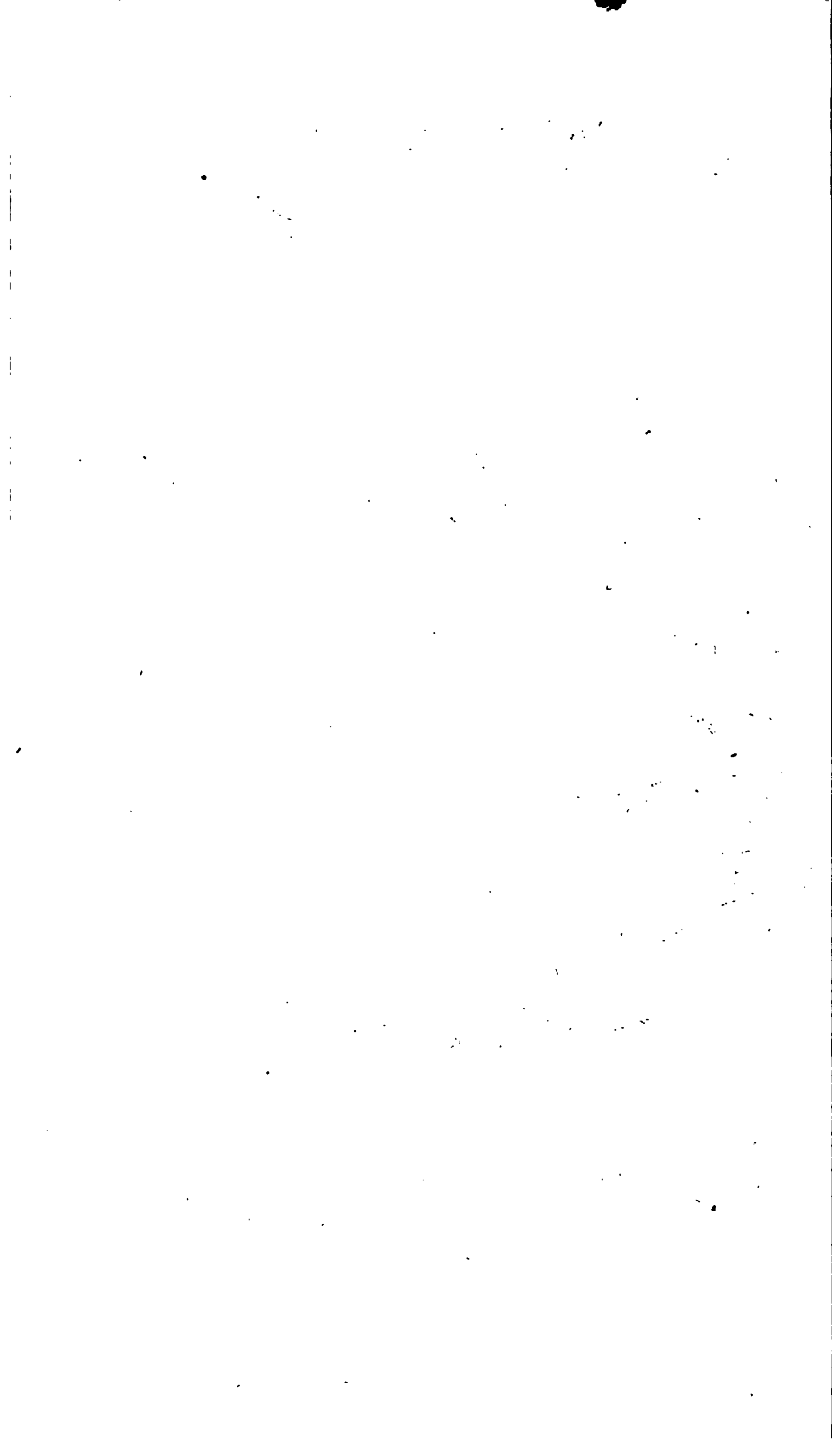
Immediately on rising the hill at Handbridge, there is a good road, turning to the left, called Eccleston-lane. At a short distance on the road to ~~Eaton~~, on the right hand side, stands Netherlegh-house, the residence and property of Sir John Cotgreave,† who served the office of

* This ancient plan, which is now very scarce, was published in the year 1574. The author was aware of this rare document being in existence, and in the early part of his labours inserted an advertisement in his work announcing, "that if any gentleman had it in possession, and would permit an engraving to be taken of it, the obligation would be equally felt by the advertiser, and appreciated by the public." The application, however, was unsuccessful, until after a lapse of nearly 18 months, when his work was drawing towards a close, the author learnt that this precious *morceau* had been placed for sale in the hands of a Chester bookseller, by a Chester gentleman, who affects a mighty respect for our antiquities, and who has assigned different reasons to different individuals for withholding it from this work. In another part, it will be the author's duty and pleasure to acknowledge his obligations to many gentlemen who have honoured him with their kind assistance; and he cannot do less than at the same time notice, with peculiar feelings of gratitude, the liberal treatment he has just alluded to. In the mean time, the author is happy to say, that through the kindness of Mr. Seacome, bookseller, he has been favoured with an inspection of this curious document. It is now 256 years since the publication of this plan, at which period several ancient edifices were standing, that have long since mouldered into dust, and the very places where they stood are no longer known. In this point of view this relique may be considered important, and the author has availed himself of its information, which will be given at the end of the work in an addenda.

† The Cotgreaves of Netherlegh spring from a younger branch of the Cotgreaves of Malpas, who were descended from Robert Fitzhugh, baron of Malpas. The ancient line became extinct in the year 1361, by reason of the marriage of the heiress with the Brereton's. The family is now represented

COAT ARMORIAL of SIR JOHN COTGREAVE
of Netherleigh

Quarterly COTGREAVE, HOLME, GAMULL.
JOHNSON Impaling CROSSE and SPENCE.



mayor of Chester in 1815, when he received the honour of knighthood from King George III. on presenting an address to his majesty, on the marriage of the late Princess Charlotte of Wales. It is beautifully situated, commands a fine view of the city, and is surrounded by some excellent garden-ground. The ancient mansion is within a moated site, and is now occupied as a farm-house. During the siege of Chester in 1645, this house was fortified by the parliamentary general, Sir William Brereton, who fixed his head-quarters there.*

A few hundred yards beyond Netherlegh-house, on the right hand, is a neat stone lodge, from whence there is a beautiful drive to Eaton-hall; and nearly opposite to the former, a handsome mansion, the property and residence of Ald. J. S. Rogers, to which the appellation of *The Green Bank* has been given. But a very short distance from hence, on the same side, there is a delightfully situated villa, overhanging and commanding a fine view of the windings of the Dee, whose site has from the remotest ages been known by the name of *Iron Bridge*, the property of Earl Grosvenor, and now occupied by

by Sir John Cotgreave, of Netherlegh. The Cotgreaves of Guilden Sutton were also of this family. Ralph, second son of Thomas Cotgreave, of Chester, settled there in 1515, according to the pedigree now in possession of Sir John, from which it is pretty well established, that this gentleman is the presumptive heir and representative of this family. What renders this the more probable is, that the arms of the Guilden Sutton family are precisely the same as those always used by the Netherlegh family. Among other estates, that of Netherlegh was given by John Lacy, constable of Chester, and baron of Halton, to Adam Dutton, and granted in trust to Herbert de Orreby by Geoffrey de Dutton, about 1270, when he went with the crusaders. It was afterwards held under the Warburton's by the Orreby's of Gawsorth, and passed by marriage with an heiress to the Fitton's, and subsequently to the Stanley's of Alderley, who sold it in 1735 to John Cotgreave, Esq. then mayor of Chester. His son, Thomas Cotgreave, Esq. in 1790 devised the estate to his brother, John Cotgreave, with remainder in default of issue, to the present proprietor, his heir at law, who assumed the name and arms of Cotgreave in 1795. The coat armorial of the family, which is subjoined, has been gratuitously presented by Sir John, for this work.

* Numerous ancient reliques have been found near Netherlegh-house, for an account of which see *Antiquities*.

Mrs. Lyon. About a mile further on, we enter the rural village of Eccleston, which contains several excellent residences, a fine church, of which the Rev. C. Mytton is rector, with six musical bells, and a good inn. Every object in and about this village presents a scene of order, cleanliness, and beauty, highly captivating; and realizes to a contemplative wanderer, on a calm summer's evening, the finest exhibition imaginable of the beauties of nature and the culture of art. A few hundred yards beyond Eccleston, is a ferry-boat across the Dee, with which is connected a road leading to the villages of Aldford, Churton-heath, Saughton, &c. And within a mile still further south, rises the sumptuous and magnificent edifice of Eaton Hall, the residence of the Right Hon. Earl Grosvenor. This splendid mansion forms an object of universal attraction to travellers from all parts of the country, and very few visit the precincts of the city of Chester, without gratifying a laudable curiosity in surveying its grandeur. The following sketch, taken from minute observation will convey but an imperfect conception of its vast exterior:—

“This splendid mansion is about four miles to the south of Chester, and stands in an extensive park on a gentle rising ground, about five hundred yards from the river Dee; and is, perhaps, the most magnificent gothic residence in the kingdom. To the park there are four approaches, to each of which is a beautiful gothic lodge, one conducting from Eccleston-lane at Green-bank, one from Aldford by the new iron bridge, a third from Pulford, and the fourth from the Wrexham-road near Belgrave.

“The centre or main part of the building, was begun in the year 1603, on the site of the old mansion, some part of the walls of which are still remaining under the more elegant coverings of the present erection. The designs were furnished by the late Mr. Porden, and the executive department was committed to the immediate direction of Mr. Gummow, beneath whose scrutinising eye the recent additions at either end have likewise sprung into existence.

“From whatever point of view the house is seen, it makes a grand and imposing appearance, with a rich display of towers, turrets, pinnacles, and battlements. It is built of a beautiful white free stone, brought from Delamere Forest, and was always considered a most highly finished specimen of the modern gothic, even previously to its now splendid enlargement, which consists of two extensive wings, with octagonal towers at each end of the main building; making one uninterrupted line of four hundred and fifty feet in length; and if this be added to the length of the coach-houses and stables

adjoining, which are built in a corresponding style, the frontage of the building will be near seven hundred feet.

“ The principal entrance is in the centre of the west front, under a superb portico of richly groined arches and clustered pillars, which admit carriages to the foot of the steps leading to the great door. This is the place where visitors apply for admittance to see the interior of the house. Round the battlements and towers, as well as the outward ballustrading, are shields charged in relief with the armorial bearings of the Grosvenors, and other ancient families, which by intermarriages they are entitled to quarter with their own. The bases of the pinnacles and ornaments round the windows are enriched with a profusion of grotesque sculptured heads of various sizes, adapted to the angles and other parts on which they are placed. The window frames are finely worked in gothic tracery, and are of cast iron made to imitate stone, with sashes of bronzed copper, and panes of plate glass; those in the principal rooms being thirty-nine inches in height.

“ The eastern entrance, or garden front, is approached by a flight of steps from a broad terrace, which runs the whole length of the centre and wings of the main building. To the right and left of the steps is a noble range of cloisters of one hundred and eighty feet in length. A massy gothic fence, with rich heraldic shields, runs round the house, and separates it from the grounds.

“ The gardens and pleasure grounds are formed on the before-mentioned gentle acclivity of the Dee. They are laid out in a very tasteful manner, and contain a choice collection of exotics and rare fruits of every description. The conservatory is built in the style of one of the wings of the house, and is a very handsome erection. The hot-houses and other buildings partake of the general character of the mansion: indeed wherever an opportunity presents, the gothic is introduced throughout the whole domain. The present earl has recently built a new cast iron bridge, close to Aldford; and as the scenery here is highly interesting, it has a very picturesque effect, in addition to its utility.”—See a small tract published by Bateman, entitled a *Visit to Eaton*.

To describe the interior of Eaton-hall, with its rich and costly furniture and decorations, would require more space than can be here allotted to such a purpose; it would occupy a volume. Suffice it to say, that it abounds with every elegance that ingenuity and art can invent, and with every profusion that wealth can purchase. Among the numerous valuables of the hall, is an extensive library, containing a choice collection of books and manuscripts, to which daily additions are making; together with many fine paintings and statues by the first masters. The noble proprietor of this princely mansion is not less distinguished for the amiableness of his private character,

than the munificence of his public charities. It is no part of my business, even if I had the ability and inclination, to enumerate a catalogue of his lordship's acts of benevolence in those distant counties where he has extensive estates and residences; but it cannot be out of the province of an historian of Chester, to record actions by which its population and neighbourhood are essentially benefitted. Sufficient therefore to my purpose, in illustration of his lordship's open-hearted liberality, is the single fact, that, aided by the active and *personal* assiduities of his amiable countess, he gives gratuitous education, clothing and books to the children of the poor, within a circle of five miles round the city, which alone are chargeable to his lordship, to the amount of not less than from five to eight hundred pounds a year. If the authority of our great poet, that whatever is given for the purposes of charity is "twice blessed;" or if the higher sanction of him, who said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive," be credible; how highly privileged does that individual stand, who having large possessions, has also a heart disposed to direct their current into the channels of charity and benevolence.*

* The Grosvenors came over into England, with the conqueror, and took their name from the office they held in the Norman court, that of *grand huntsman*. Their first settlement in this county was, Over Lostock, bestowed by Hugh Lupus on his great nephew Robert le Grosvenour. In 1234, Richard le Grosvenour purchased and fixed his seat at Hulme; but in the reign of Henry VI. by the marriage of Rawlin or Ralph Grosvenour with Joan daughter of John Eaton, of Eaton, Esq. it was transferred to this place. While chivalry was the passion of the times, few families shone in so distinguished a manner: none shewed equal spirit in vindicating their right to their honors. Witness the famous cause between Sir Robert le Grosvenour with Sir Richard le Scrope, plaintiff, about a coat of arms, *azure one bend, or*; tried before the high constable and high marshal of England, in the reign of Richard II. which lasted three years. Kings, princes of the blood, and most of the nobility, bore witness in this important affair. The sentence was conciliating, that both parties should bear the same arms; but the GROS-
VENOURS *avec une bordure d'argent*. Sir Robert resents it; appeals to the king. The judgment is confirmed: the choice is left to the defendant, either to use the *bordure*, or to bear the arms of their relations, the ancient earls of Chester, *azure a gerbe d'or*. He rejected the mortifying distinction, and chose the *gerbe*; which is the family coat to this day.

Returning again to that part of Handbridge, where the road diverges towards Eaton, and advancing onward about two hundred yards, another road turns to the left which leads to Wrexham, a distance of twelve miles; in the course of which the villages of Dodleston* and Gresford are passed on the right, and those of Pulford, the Rosset, Marford, and Acton, in front. The main turnpike, preserving a straight direction, conducts to Mold, Hawarden and Holywell, being the line of the mail to Holyhead, first passing by Overlegh, and on a long stretch of road, formerly called Saltney Marsh.† About three miles in this direction is the boundary between the counties of Chester and Flint, and between England and the northern division of the principality of Wales.

All the turnpike roads leading from the city are kept in an excellent state of repair, the Macadamizing system being principally adopted. In several directions, how-

* It may not be generally known, that the remains of the illustrious progenitor of the Bridgewater family, Thomas Egerton, viscount Brackley, (better probably remembered by his inferior, but earlier title of baron Ellesmere) who for upwards of twenty years, 1596-1617, held the great seal of England with distinguished ability and integrity, had till very lately lain under a nameless stone in Dodleston church. In 1829, however, this want of regard to the memory of a great and good man was supplied. The present rector of Dodleston, the venerable archdeacon Wrangham, under the impression, that "the splendour of ancestry is intended to be not only a glory, but also a light and guide to posterity," made application to one of his affluent descendants (the late Rev. the earl of Bridgewater) and procured for "buried merit its tardy bust." A marble monument, handsomely executed by Mr. Kelly, of Chester, now distinguishes the spot where those long-neglected relics rest. It bears the following inscription, from the pen of the archdeacon :—

"*Maiorum gloria posteris quasi lumen est subitus lacet quidquid mortale fuit Thomæ Baronis de Ellesmere et vice-comitis de Brackley viri antiqua virtute ac fide per viginti plus annos regni Angliæ cancellarii, scientia scriptis facundia spectatissimi hominibus exemptus est xv. id. April, anno sacro M.DC.XVII. æt. circiter LXXVII. orimur sequentur qui non præcesserint.*"

The fund (£100.) for defraying the expenses of the erection, was wholly supplied by the late eccentric but munificently disposed earl, in a remittance from Paris.

†In 1768, Sir John Glynn, with a view of effecting an easier communication between his colliery at Sandycroft and the city of Chester, projected

ever, the tolls are particularly heavy, which necessarily operates as a serious disadvantage on the conveyance of goods by land carriage. I am at a loss to account for the amazing increase in these tolls, which in some instances have been advanced within the last three years not less than two-thirds, which will be shewn by the following table :—

A Table of Tolls taken on the different Turnpike Roads leading to and from the city of Chester with the Tolls formerly taken ; showing the difference between the present and former charge. The table is taken on a waggon and four horses, the wheels being of the breadth of six inches.

	Distance from Chester.	Present Tolls.		Former Tolls.		Difference more than formerly.	
	MILES.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Chester to Preston-brook and back..	14	8	4	1	8	6	8
Frodsham .....ditto..	10	5	0	1	8	3	4
Wrexham .....ditto..	12	8	0	2	8	5	4
Mold .....ditto..	12	7	4	4	0	3	4
Eastham .....ditto..	10	1	4	1	4	0	0
Whitchurch ....ditto..	20	2	8	2	8	0	0
Northwich .....ditto..	18	10	0	4	4	5	8

The Toll from Wrexham to Shrewsbury and back, a distance of 28 miles each way, is only *six shillings*.

the plan of carrying the coals over Saltney Marsh by water, the road being at that time sandy and very heavy for draught. To this end a canal was cut along side and parallel with the turnpike-road, till it turned off towards a point near the Dee, about two miles below Chester. The coals were accordingly carted to a coal-yard in Bretton, and forwarded thence on punts constructed for the purpose. This canal, however, proved an unsuccessful speculation : the coals being unloaded at Bretton, reloaded on the punts of the canal, unloaded again at the end of the canal, and reloaded on punts upon the river, became so broken, as to be scarcely saleable, independent of the loss of breakage. Mr. Pennant in his Tour, speaks of this canal as then existing ; but it appears to have been filled up about the year 1775.—In 1778, an act of parliament was obtained for inclosing Saltney Marsh, containing by admeasurement 2,000 acres of rich land, not including 600 acres copped out aforetime by the Stanley's. This undertaking was effected at a vast expence, as a new and more substantial river bank was requisite on the south side, more effectually to prevent the inroads of the tide, with sluices to carry off the land floods and drain waters. This great work was expeditiously performed, and the lands of the Marsh divided and allotted by the commissioners, Samuel Wyatt, Esq. Mr. Edward Stelfox, and Mr. John Earl, each of whom received £393. 15s. and the award was signed 1781. This act added about 1,000 acres to the Glynn estate.

Historical Events,

FROM THE

SIEGE OF CHESTER TO THE PRESENT TIME.

[From Vol. I. p. 198.]

THE gallant defence sustained by the city of Chester, has already been noticed at large, with its surrender to the parliamentary forces under Sir William Brereton. In these times of civil commotion, the city, as a fortress of considerable strength, was deemed of the greatest importance by the conflicting parties. In the month of May, 1648, some attempts being then on foot in the north for restoring the king's power, the fortifications of Chester were put in complete repair; and in the August following, Captain Oldham, Lieutenant Ashton, and several others, partizans of the royal cause, formed a plan for seizing the city and castle, for the use of the king, but the design being discovered, the two former were arrested, and shot in the corn-market, suffering with truly heroic courage, exhorting the bye-standers to loyalty and fidelity towards the king and royal family.

In July, 1649, colonel Robert Dukenfield was appointed governor of Chester; and in the same year, king Charles II. was proclaimed a traitor at the High Cross, and other places of the city. The king's arms were removed from the shire-hall, and those of the earls from the exchequer, by order of the judges, Humphrey Mackworth, (deputy to Bradshaw) and Thomas Fell.

1650. The bishop's palace, with all the furniture, were sold, December 13, to Robert Maller and William Richardson, for 1059*l*.

In 1651, a court martial was established at Chester, where a number of prisoners were brought from Newport for trial. Of these, ten were condemned on the act against holding a correspondence with the king, and five were executed, including a captain Symkins, who had carried the king's letter of invitation to sir Thomas Middleton. Shortly afterwards the earl of Derby, sir Timothy Fetherstonhaugh, and captain Benbow were condemned by the said tribunal.* The two first to be

* The following is an account of the proceedings of a court martial against these unfortunate gentlemen, from *Sommers' Tracts*, 3 Charles II. A. D. 1652:—On Wednesday being the 1st of this instant month, the earl of Derby was brought to his trial, before the court martial holden at Chester, in the year of our Lord God, 1651. By virtue of a commission from his Excellency the lord general Cromwell, grounded upon an act of parliament of the 12th of August last, intituled, “An act prohibiting correspondence with Charles Stuart, or his party, directed to major-general Mitton,” &c. The said court being assembled together, after silence proclaimed, the names of the officers were called over (twenty in number.)

After the court was proclaimed, the president gave order for the prisoner to be brought to the bar; and accordingly he was guarded from the castle to the said court, where judge Mackworth read the act of parliament, prohibiting correspondence with Charles Stuart, or his party. And when his lordship came to the latter clause of the said act, viz. ‘That whosoever shall offend against this act and declaration, shall or may be proceeded against by a council of war, who are hereby authorized to hear and determine all and every the said offences; and such as by the said council be condemned to suffer death, shall also forfeit all his and their lands, goods, and other estates, as in case of high treason;’ upon which words the earl of Derby said, ‘I am no traitor, neither.’ ‘Sir,’ said the president, ‘your words are contemptible; you must be silent during the reading of the act, and your charge.’ After his lordship had read the said charge of high treason, &c. the earl pleaded, that he had quarter given him for his life by one Captain Edge, which (said he) he conceived a good bar to avoid trial for life by a council of war, unless he had committed some new fact since quarter given, that might bring him within the cognizance of a court-martial. Hereupon the commissioners took the matter into consideration, and after a long and serious debate, they agreed to over-rule him in his plea, and finding him guilty of treason, passed sentence upon him in these words:—1. Resolved, by the court, upon the question, ‘That James, earl of Derby, is guilty of the breach of the said act of the 12th of August, last part, entitled, ‘An act prohibiting correspondence with Charles Stuart or his party,’ and so of high treason against the commonwealth of England, and therefore is worthy of death.’ 2. Resolved, &c. ‘That the said James Earl of Derby is a traitor to the commonwealth of England, and an abettor, encourager, and assister of the declared traitors and enemies thereof, and shall be put to death, by severing his head from his

beheaded severally at Bolton and Chester, and the third to be shot at Shrewsbury. On the 14th of October, the earl took leave of Fetherstonhaugh, and then proceeded from the castle, attended quite through the city by numbers of people weeping and praying for him, to whom

body, at the market-place in the town of Bolton, in Lancashire, upon Wednesday the 15th of this instant, October, about the hour of one o'clock of the same day.'—The court then proceeded in the same summary way in the trials of Sir Timothy Fetherstonhaugh and Capt. John Benbow, both of whom were found guilty, the former to be beheaded the 22nd of the month at Chester; and the latter to be shot at Shrewsbury on the 15th.

[FROM WHITLOCKE'S MEMORIALS, P. 486.]

Oct. 6, 1651. Letters, that the Earl of Derby was tried at a court martial at Chester, at which were twenty officers, captains, and above that degree, five colonels, and above that degree, Major-General Mitton, and Colonel Mackworth, president. That the earl confessed the plot for a general rising of the Presbyterians in Lancashire, to join with the King, but it was disappointed by the apprehension of Mr. Birkenhead. That Sir Thomas Tiddesley, Major Ashurst, and Major-General Massey were principal actors in the conspiracy. He confessed the matters of treason charged against him, and submitted to the mercy of parliament. And for plea, 1. He alleged 'he had quarter given him, and therefore was not to be tried by a court martial for life;' but this was over-ruled by the court. 2. He pleaded 'ignorance of the acts of treason set forth by the parliament,' which plea was also over-ruled; and the court sentenced him to be beheaded for his treasons at Bolton, where he had killed a man in cold blood. The earl seemed very desirous for life, and petitioned the lord general upon the point of his having quarter, but had no relief from him. The court sentenced Sir Timothy Fetherstonhaugh to be beheaded for the same treasons; and Captain Benbow to be shot to death.

Oct. 13. Letters, that the Earl of Derby attempted to escape, and was let down by a rope from the leads of his chamber, but some hearing a noise made after him, and he was re-taken upon Dee-bank.* He wrote a hand-

* In this attempt to escape, the brave earl was less successful than one of the old princes of North Wales, concerning whom the Rev. W. Warrington, in his history of Wales, relates the following story: "Gryffyth ap Cynan had languished twelve years in captivity in the castle of Chester, neglected by his subjects, or what is more probable, without their having had the ability to procure his release. The situation of this prince excited the compassion of a young man, named Kynwric Hir, a native of Edeirnion; who determined, if possible, to effect his escape out of prison, though at every hazard to himself. The enterprise was bold, generous, and full of danger. Attended by a few followers, he repaired to Chester, under pretence of buying some necessaries; and having gained admittance into the castle, at the edge of night, while the keepers were deeply engaged in feasting, he carried away on his back the captive prince, loaded with chains, and conveyed him with safety into his own dominions. Though Gryffyth ap Cynan had thus fortunately escaped out of the hands of his enemies, he had many difficulties still to encounter, as his own subjects were either dispirited, or alienated from him; and the English were masters of the country. His danger was sometimes so great, that he was obliged to be concealed in woods or other places of security; till at length, having taken those castles which the Normans had erected during his confinement, he regained the entire possession of his kingdom."

at Flookersbrook he bid adieu with an humble yet noble behaviour. Near to Hoole-heath he alighted from his horse, and by the coach side, took leave of his two daughters, saluting them and praying for them, and then, after a sad parting, proceeded on his way to Bolton.

During the months of June and July, 1655, many of the principal gentry of this county, among whom were Sir Peter Leycester, of Tabley; Peter Venables, baron of Kinderton; Sir Richard Grosvenor; Mr. Shakerley; Mr. Warren, of Poynton; and Mr. Massey, of Pudington; were sent prisoners to the castle of Chester, under suspicion of being disaffected to Cromwell's government. In the month of November in this year, the parliament passed a resolution that the castle of Chester should be rendered untenable, and the city wall rased between the Eastgate and Newgate. This order was partially carried into effect.

About the middle of July, 1659, several attempts were made to seize the principal strong-holds in England for Charles the Second, "of which enterprizes," says Clarendon, "only one succeeded, which was that undertaken by Sir George Booth; all the rest failed. The Lord Willoughby of Parham, and Sir Horatio Townsend, and most of their friends, were apprehended before the day, and made prisoners, most of them upon general suspicion, as men able to do hurt. Only Sir George Booth, being a person of the best quality, and fortune of that county, of those who had never been of the king's party, came into Chester, with such persons as he thought fit to take with him the night before; so that though the tempestuousness of the night and the next morning had the same effect as in other places, to break or disorder the

some passionate letter to his lady to comfort her, and advised her, as then matters stood, to surrender the Isle of Man upon good conditions.

Oct. 20. Letters of the particulars of the Earl of Derby's death on the 15th at Bolton; who carried himself with stoutness and christian-like temper.

Nov. 1. Letters, that Sir Timothy Fethamstonhaugh was executed in the market-place, Chester, according to the sentence of the court-martial, and used only a few prayers out of the common prayer-book.

rendezvous that was appointed within four or five miles of that city, yet Sir George being himself there with a good troop of horse he brought with him, and finding others, though not in the number he looked for, he retired with those he had into Chester, where his party was strong enough, and Sir Thomas Middleton having kept his rendezvous, came thither to him, and brought strength enough to keep those parts at their devotion, and to suppress all those who had inclination to oppose them."

Sir George Booth (who, as it was afterwards known, had a commission from King Charles II. appointing him commander-in-chief of all his forces in Cheshire, Lancashire, and North Wales) hearing that General Lambert was on his way to oppose him, marched with his army, consisting of upwards of three thousand men to give him battle. Sir George, accompanied by Lord Cholmondeley, Lord Kilmorey, and several of the principal gentlemen of the county, mustered his army on Rowton-heath, the spot which had proved so unfortunate to King Charles I. and there read and published a declaration setting forth that they took up arms for a free parliament, and to deliver the nation from the slavery they then laboured under. General Lambert being sent by the parliament, with an army against Sir George, the conflicting forces met at Winnington-bridge, near Northwich, on the 16th of Aug. when an action ensued, in which Booth's forces were soon defeated; he himself escaped from the field in disguise, but was taken at Newport Pagnell, and sent to the tower. After the engagement, Lambert marched with his army to Chester, then held by Colonel Croxton, which was immediately surrendered. As a punishment for this rebellion against their power, the parliament passed a vote on the 17th of September, to dissolve the corporation of the city of Chester, and that it should be no longer a county of itself. The speedy demolition of the authority of the parliament by whom this order was issued, rendered the resolution of very immaterial consequence.

With the restoration of the royal family, in 1660, the ancient order of the church was re-established. In the

month of September in that year, Dr. Brian Walton, being appointed bishop of Chester, most of the clergy of the city and county went to meet him on his coming to take possession of his bishopric. The trained bands of the city were drawn up along the Foregate-street, and at the Bars, the mayor and corporation in their formalities, received their new bishop, and walked before him to the palace, amidst the acclamations of the people, expressing the greatest joy at the restoration of episcopacy. Immediately after his arrival, he put on his robes, and went to perform his devotions in the Cathedral, where the dean, Dr. Bridgeman, and all the chapter, received him.

In 1683, the kingdom was again threatened with civil commotion, from the restless ambition of the Duke of Monmouth, a natural son of Charles II. who had entered into a conspiracy with Lord Russel, Algernon Sydney, and other mal-contents. The following relation of this young gentleman's visit to Chester, is taken from the Cowper MSS. which places the loyalty of the citizens of that day in a somewhat questionable shape :—
“In the middle of August, James Duke of Monmouth came to Chester, greatly affecting popularity, and giving countenance to riotous assemblies and tumultuous mobs, whose violence was such as to pelt with stones the windows of several gentlemen's houses in the city, and otherwise to damage the same. They likewise furiously forced the doors of the Cathedral church, and destroyed most of the painted glass, burst open the little vestries and cupboards, wherein were the surplices and hoods belonging to the clergy, which they rent to rags and carried away; they beat to pieces the baptismal font, pulled down some monuments, attempted to demolish the organ, and committed other enormous outrages. On Thursday the 25th of the said month, the duke went to the horse-races at Wallasey in Wirral, which meeting served as a rendezvous for his friends in this part of the kingdom, a junto of whom sat in consultation in the summer-house at Bidston, where was concerted that insurrection which was afterwards attended with such fatal consequences.”

Monmouth was taken into custody on his return from Chester at Stafford, at a splendid entertainment given him by the members of that corporation. His progress through Cheshire was attended with considerable tumult, and securities of the peace were required from the numerous county gentlemen who appeared to favour him. A memoir of his reception in the city notices several of Monmouth's acts to gain popularity. The infant of the mayor was christened Henrietta, his grace condescending to stand sponsor. The following day the duke is said to have rode his own horse and won the plate at Wallasey, and in the evening to have presented it to his god-daughter.

The following six chronological items are copied from the Cowper MSS. :—

1687. Aug. 27. "James II. came to Chester on Saturday, and was received near the Bars in Foregate-street by the corporation in their robes. He was afterwards splendidly entertained at the Pentice, where he was seated under a canopy of crimson velvet, prepared for the occasion. His majesty lodged at the bishop's palace, from whence next morning he walked through the city to the castle (the mayor bareheaded carrying the sword before him), and heard mass in the shire-hall.* On Monday he went to Holywell, and on Tuesday returned to Chester, and the day following closeted several gentlemen both of the city and county, in order to prevail upon them to approve of the repeal of the penal laws and test-act, but met with very little encouragement in that affair. On Thursday, Sept. 1, the king left Chester, not much satisfied with the disposition of the people."

1688. Tuesday, Nov. 27. "About midnight, lord Molineux's Lancashire regiment (mostly Roman catholics) entered the city, which caused a general consternation, and the citizens were rising up in arms, but by the prudence of the magistracy, matters were quieted, and no violence committed."

* He also received the sacrament according to the Romish ritual, in the chapel in the square tower of the castle.

1690. Friday, June 2. "King William came to Combermere, and the next day to Peel-hall, the seat of Col. Roger Whitley, and on Sunday morning arrived at Chester, and went immediately to the cathedral church, where being seated in the episcopal throne, he heard divine service, and a sermon preached by Dr. Stratford, the bishop of the diocese, after which he set out immediately for Gayton-hall, in Wirral, the seat of William Glegg, esq. upon whom the King was on the following day pleased to confer the honour of knighthood; and all things being ready for his embarkation, from thence he proceeded to the reduction of Ireland."

1696. A mint being this year set up in Chester, coinage of money began on the 2nd of October. There was coined 101,660 ounces of wrought plate; all the pieces had the letter C. under the king's head.

1715. "This winter lord Charles Murray, (son to the duke of Athol) with several gentlemen, and a great number of private men, who had been taken (Nov. 13) in the rebellion at Preston, were brought prisoners to Chester castle. The weather was very severe, and the snow lay a yard deep in the roads. Many of the above mentioned prisoners died in the castle by the severity of the season; many were carried off by a very malignant fever; and most of the survivors were transported to the plantations in America. As the castle was quite filled with these prisoners, the Lent assizes were held at Nantwich."

1745. "Towards the latter end of this year the rebel army from Scotland marching into this kingdom, and entering Lancashire, the earl of Cholmondeley, lord lieutenant of the county, and governor of Chester, began dispositions for the defence of this city, in which was one veteran regiment, and three new raised ones. The Watergate, Northgate, and Sally-ports were walled up, and the several buildings adjoining to the walls pulled down. The main guard was kept in the Bridge-street, at the end of Commonhall-lane, subalterns had the charge of the gates, through which no one was allowed to pass

but by day-light ; advanced parties were placed at proper places in the suburbs, and picquet guards patrolled on the walls all night long. On the 19th of November orders were given that all householders should lay in a stock of provisions for a fortnight. The fortifications of the castle were repaired, and some new works added : ammunition and necessary stores were provided. On Sunday, Nov. 24th, the church-yard walls of St. Mary's-on-the-hill were taken down, and the materials taken into the castle. Several adjoining buildings were likewise taken down, and their foundations levelled, and the citadel and town were made as tenable as the time would permit. However, the rebels did not approach the city, but marched through a part of the county into Staffordshire."

Dr. Cowper adds, that all trade and business ceased for some weeks, the principal inhabitants having removed all their valuables. The four regiments quartered in the city were chiefly accommodated in private houses. Shortly after the surrender of Carlisle, a number of the rebels were brought prisoners in sixteen carts to Chester, and lodged in the castle, which they completely filled. In consequence of this, the spring assizes were held at Flookersbrook, but no sort of business was brought before the grand jury.

The loyalty of the gentry in this neighbourhood, upon the breaking out of the Scotch rebellion is thus noticed in the Gentleman's Magazine for 1745.—"At an assembly of nobility and gentry at the castle of Chester, measures were entered upon to raise and maintain 2500 men for his Majesty's service ; Sir Robert Grosvenor gave 2000*l.* and promised as much more when required ; many gentlemen subscribed a year's income of their estates, and the bishop subscribed 200*l.* and even the Catholics of the best distinction shewed their zeal for the government."

From this period down to the present time, there have been no very interesting occurrences within the city that will require particular detail. The barrenness of incidents in this department of the work arises from the

nature of the arrangement of the materials. By giving under distinct heads an account of the remarkable events, and of our public buildings and institutions, with their origin, progress, and present state, but little remains to be said here, except a bare recital of some facts that may be thought worthy of notice, and these shall be given in chronological order, commencing with the year

1691. June 8, Whit-Monday, being a day of general recreation, eleven young women were in a boat rowed by two watermen, upon the river just under St. John's church, when one of the watermen threw an apple among them, which they attempting to scramble for, and rushing to one side of the boat, overset it, by which accident ten of them were drowned. The two watermen swam to shore, when Phoebe Jones, catching hold of the leg of one of them, held so fast, that he drew her after him to the bank side, but in the action of swimming he had with the heel of his shoe, beat out all her front teeth.

1720. Part of the Roodee cop being washed down, was rebuilt and faced with stone.

1727. In this year, a newspaper was published in the city, called the *Chester Journal*. From this publication the following advertisement is quoted, which is curious, as shewing the rude state in which our theatricals were in that day:—"On Monday evening will be acted, the historical tragedy of King Richard III. at the Wool-hall in Chester, with the bloody murder of the two young princes in the tower of London, the tragical murder of the good and quiet king Henry by king Richard, after which he marries lady Anne, whose heart he broke; to conclude with the bloody battle of Bosworth field, in which king Richard and the great earl of Richmond fight a long while furiously with large swords till Richmond runs Richard through the body, and *he dies as natural as life*!—N.B. Nobody will take it amiss that they cannot come behind the scenes, on account of the great hurry and bustle of the play."

The following curious extract is from the *Gentleman's Magazine*:—"17th October, 1732. Ended the

poll for Mayor of Chester, when the numbers were—for Alderman Johnson, 1097; Alderman Ellams, 1095, in the Grosvenor interest: Alderman Maynwaring, 858; Alderman Bennet, 858, for Mr. Manley and Navigation. The two first were returned, and the former sworn into office. On this occasion the contest was so great, that 20% was given for a vote; about 6,000% spent, and, as reported, some lives lost."

In 1734, a severe contest for the representation of the city occurred between sir Robert Grosvenor and R. Manley, esq. which lasted seven days, and terminated in favour of the former.—The act for incorporating the river Dee company passed in this year, and on the 20th of April in the year following the first sod of the new cut of the river was taken up by R. Manley, Esq.

In the year 1734, was commenced a newspaper, called *Adams's Weekly Courant*, at which time it appears, the *Chester Journal* had been discontinued. At this period, there were but few provincial papers in the kingdom; and compared with the journals of the present day, whether considered in reference to their size, or matter, or management, they exhibited but a contemptible figure. Little ingenuity, labour, or expence were then deemed requisite for carrying on a country newspaper, the whole of its contents, besides an invitation to buy the wares of the tradesmen, being confined to a few paragraphs of news copied from the *Lloyd's Evening Post*, the announcement of deaths and marriages, the perpetration of a daring robbery or bloody murder, or the occurrence of some dreadful accident within the immediate district. In those days, and indeed for half a century afterwards, the importance or even the name of *Editor* was little known, and still less would be understood the meaning of that lately fashionable phrase, *the gentlemen of the press*." This paper, now called the *Chester Courant*, was established by a Mr. Adams, and upon his death, continued by his widow, who being married to Mr. John Monk, it of course passed into his hands; then into the hands of his eldest son, Edmund; and afterwards into those of his second

son, John, by whose widow it is now published, on the very premises where it was commenced in Newgate-street.

1739. The mayor was this year refused admittance into the Abbey-court, by bishop Peplœ, when proclaiming war against Spain, whereupon his worship ordered the Abbey-gates to be broken down.

On a petition from several freemen of Chester to the house of commons against the return of Mr. Warburton, the following important resolution was adopted by the house on the 2nd of February, 1747, which has ever since regulated the mode of election:—"That the right of election of citizens to serve in parliament for the city of Chester, is in the mayor, aldermen, and common-council of the said city, and in such freemen of the said city, not receiving alms, as shall have been commorant within the said city, or the liberties thereof, for the space of one whole year next before the election of the citizens to serve in parliament."

At the spring assizes held at Chester, in March, 1748, not one single bill of indictment was offered to the grand jury. If the amount of crime, as exhibited in our criminal calenders, be taken as a criterion of national morals, this fact speaks loudly in favour of former times; the number of offenders usually indicted at our spring assizes at Chester of late years, being not less than from 60 to 80.

The shops on the west side of the Exchange built in the year 1756; and in 1758, the house of industry was erected, in which were immediately placed 200 poor people.

In the year 1762, the first police act for the government of the city was obtained, which continued in operation till 1803, when another act was passed for amending and enlarging its powers.—In the former year the spire of St. Peter's church was rebuilt, when one Wright, in attempting to gain the top of the scaffolding for a trifling wager, fell on the leads of the church, and was killed.

1771. The city was illuminated, in consequence of the passing of an act for making a canal to Nantwich. The first sod was cut on the 4th of May.

1772. A horrid explosion of gunpowder on the 5th of November, in Watergate-street, by which a great number of people were blown up.—(Vide vol. i. page 7.)

On the 2nd of May, 1775, the *Chester Chronicle* was commenced by Messrs. Barker, Poole, & Co. under whose joint proprietary it was carried on for about ten years. During this period, the journal never acquired a robust stability of constitution, and was in danger of expiring, probably from the prescriptions of *too many doctors*, when it was taken under the auspices of Mr. John Fletcher, the present proprietor, by whose management and attentions, it has risen into a healthful maturity.

In 1776, the communication between the canal and the river Dee near the Water Tower, was opened on the 4th of September, and the first barge passed on the 11th of December.—On the 12th of January in this year a fire occurred in the shop of Miss Washington, milliner, Eastgate-street, which destroyed a considerable part of the stock.—April 28, the banns of marriage published in the church of St. Oswald's between George Harding, aged *one hundred and four years*, and Jane Darlington, of Mollington, aged *eighty-four*.

1777. In the month of January in this year, Dr. Beilby Porteus was elected bishop of this diocese.—In May, J. Townshend, Esq. obtained a royal license for the theatre.—In September, a slight shock of an earthquake was felt in the city.

1778. During this year three privateers sailed from this port, namely, the *Empress of Russia*, of 24 guns and 120 men; the *Hero*, of 16 guns and 80 men; and the *Spy*, of ten four-pounders, 12 swivels, and 50 men. The former, after capturing a Swedish ship of 300 tons, was taken by a French frigate, and sent into L'Orient.

In August, 1779, the canal between Chester and Nantwich was opened; and on the 13th of February in the following year, the city was illuminated in celebration of the victory obtained by Adm. Rodney over the Spanish Adm. Langerá.—In April, 1781, the warehouses of Mr. Topham, adjoining the snuff mills were burnt down.

At this time, England was engaged in an unequal contest with her American colonies, and France, Spain, Holland, and was threatened with invasion from her Gallic neighbours. The city of Chester, ever distinguished for its loyalty, raised a body of volunteers, who were trained and disciplined, and rendered efficient for the purpose of resisting foreign invasion, or repressing domestic commotions.*

* It is no disparagement to the most renowned military men that they do not fight, when no enemy dares to present himself in the field before them. Had the Frenchmen presumed to approach our shores in an hostile attitude, there is no doubt but the Chester Volunteers of that day would have covered themselves with glory; and that they did not thus approach, was no fault of theirs. Although these brave men were disappointed, in meeting a foreign enemy, an occurrence most fortunate for their credit furnished an opportunity for shewing their prowess; and as this military exploit has never been recorded in the Gazette, it shall have a place here. Towards the close of the American war, a numerous and lawless banditti associated together for the purposes of plunder and robbery, in the vicinity of Chester, who by their nocturnal depredations, threw the whole neighbourhood into a state of constant trepidation and alarm, while by the well-managed secrecy of their movements, their place of rendezvous remained undiscoverable to the ken of the civil authorities. At length, however, a noted thief of the name of Bebbington was apprehended for a criminal offence, and lodged in the North-gate prison; he was shrewdly suspected of being one of the dangerous gang, and the sly rogue, either with a view of passing a mischievous hoax, or in the hopes of benefiting himself, seemed disposed to favour the suspicion. The capture of this fellow was now considered of the highest importance, as no doubt existed but he could give such information as might lead to the apprehension of his confederates. On being pressed to a disclosure, Bebbington at first affected some scrupulosity, and then, as if yielding to a sense of duty, assured the magistrates, that the marauders were exceedingly numerous, that their purposes were of the most dangerous nature, that a sense of danger had rendered them quite desperate, and that it would require an overwhelming force to capture them; and at the same time describing with minute precision the particular places of their concealment on the edge of the forest, and about Kelsal. A consultation of the magistracy was immediately called, and a resolution entered into to storm the enemy's camp. But the enterprize was deemed too formidable, without the aid of the military; the commandant of the volunteers was applied to, who instantly offered the services of his gallant band; and as a *night attack* was deemed the most effective, in the afternoon of the same day, the drums beat to arms, and in little more than an hour's time, the whole corps was mustered in marching order, fully equipped for the field, to the number of about one hundred and twenty, rank and file. The expedition was a *secret one*, and as few either of the men or inhabitants knew its destination, a thousand rumours spread as to its object, some affirming

1783. In September, a grand musical festival, which produced upwards of 600%.

1784. On the 8th of November in this year, George Cooke, the celebrated tragedian, made his first appearance at our theatre, in the character of Hamlet, for the benefit of Mr. Platt. He was announced as "a young gentleman; his second appearance on the stage."

one thing and some another, but all agreeing in this, that the service was of the most perilous and important kind. Appalling lamentations were heard in every quarter; and when the word *march* was given, and while the corps wended their steps through the streets, the piercing cries and sobs of wives, children, sisters, sweethearts and friends, were truly pitiable—all apparently auguring that they should see their faces no more! The route of these heroes was towards the forest, and it was now no longer necessary to conceal from them, that they were destined to act against a numerous and desperate band of armed robbers. It was in the depth of winter, the roads were ankle-deep in mud, and ere they had well cleared the suburbs of the city, the shades of night had closed in upon them. The historian is not informed that at this stage of the expedition a single ejaculation on the hardships of a soldier's life, had escaped the lips of officer or private, such was their ardour for martial glory. And to relieve the fatigues of a long march, Stamford-bridge presented a very suitable place for a *halt*, where, without the aid of a foraging party, "the sign-post caught the passing eye," and where courage and good resolution were rewarded and sustained, with almost every drop of beverage that the village could furnish. Arrived at Tarvin, an equally courageous *assault* was made on the stock of every Bonnyface there; and if report may be credited, not even the remnant of a barrel or bottle remained to cheer the passing traveller on his way. It has been said, that several distinguished instances of bravery were manifested in this village, as the storming of a couple of pig-styes, and the capture of half a dozen country clowns, whom curiosity had drawn together to witness this grand military spectacle; but as the particulars have not been authoratively recorded, I shall pass them over with this slight notice. The brave little army, however, full of *spirits*, soon arrived near the scene of conflict, and they approached the village of Kelsal, where their operations were to commence, with great circumspection, the commander-in-chief having issued his orders with consummate skill. The first post to be assailed was a dwelling-house situated at the end of the village, in which were said to be concealed considerable numbers of the banditti, with immense quantities of booty, arms, and ammunition; and nothing could exceed the disposition made for the assault, nor the promptness and precision with which the orders of the commander were executed. In a very short time the fortress was surrounded, and a summons proclaimed by a violent knock at the door, and a demand to surrender at discretion. This was several times repeated without effect, when just as the orders to *storm* were about to be given, a feeble voice from within was heard, imploring mercy and protection, the door at the same time being thrown open. The house was instantly filled with soldiers, those in the rear and flanks having received strict orders

1785. The 1st of Sept. Captain G. French, a gentleman still resident in Chester, ascended in Lunardi's balloon, from the Castle-yard, four p. m. and descended at six at Macclesfield, 40 miles.—On the 7th, Mr. Baldwin ascended from the same place at one p. m. and descended beyond Warrington.

not to suffer any of the enemy to escape in those directions. The concealed thieves and booty were demanded with great sternness, while a poor old woman, the only human being visible in the house, almost petrified with fear, wrung her hands, exclaiming, "O gentlemen, I never thought it would come to this; bless you don't take him away; he will marry her, indeed he will." This inexplicable appeal rather increased than allayed suspicion, and they proceeded to search the premises. After diligent inquisition, they found a young country fellow, stretched on the floor under a bed whom they dragged forth, half dead with fear, and who, on being interrogated, could be brought to no other answer, than that "he would marry her." Recourse now being had to several persons in the village, the result was found to be, that the supposed harbour for thieves and magazine for booty, was the residence of a quiet old widow of good repute; that the countryman whom they had seized as a prisoner, was her son; that a young woman in a neighbouring parish was pregnant by him, whom he had shewn some repugnance to marry; and that both the widow and her son, supposing the attack upon the house to be connected with a design of the parish officers to take him to prison, had extracted from them both, an assurance that "he would marry her!" Two or three other places on the borders of the forest had been described by Bebbington as retreats of the banditti, but the deception in the above instance, seems to have abated their credulity, or cooled their military ardour. It was now past midnight, and in the depth of winter; they were seven or eight miles from home; without quarters; and withal many of them worse for their stimulating libations. Their military exploit being accomplished, there seemed no further necessity for military discipline; they grouped together in twos, threes, or half dozens, as chance or inclination dictated. The first of the returning victors did not reach Chester till after day-light next morning, and many of the rear not till towards evening. An awful suspense pervaded the city during the preceding night, and before the appearance of day terrific rumours were general, that the gallant band had encountered a numerous enemy on Delamere forest, and been cut to pieces. It is gratifying, however, to say, that notwithstanding the danger and severity of the service, not a life was lost, the only injury sustained being a few slight wounds and contusions occasioned by some clumsy somersets in the lanes, from which they all happily recovered. Two or three of these hardy veterans only are now living, who still recount with much glee and good humour the glories of that eventful night. It may just be added, that the wily Bebbington afterwards succeeded in detaching a posse of the civil power into Wirral, in quest of the rogues, where he pretended they were assembled; but this, like the former, proved a sheer hoax.

1786. St. Bridget's church repaired, and Bridge-street widened.—August 28, a man ran from the Eastgate to Christleton, and afterwards round the outside of the city walls in 51 minutes; a distance of near seven miles.—Grand festival of music in the Cathedral; the orchestra for the first time erected next the great west window.—On the 10th of October, the double toll formerly claimed by the corporation at the fairs, abolished.

1788. John Howard, the celebrated philanthropist, visited Chester.—Dec. 5. John Parry, a civil officer, shot by Thomas Mate, in Handbridge, whom he was ordered to arrest.—July 3. The old Watergate began to be taken down.

1789. Jan. 13, fire at the Pied Bull stables, in which the hostler was burnt to death, having it is supposed gone into the loft with a lighted candle, in a state of intoxication.—March 16, the city illuminated in celebration of the king's recovery.—Sept. 20, Mrs. Jordan performed at our theatre; she took away, in four night's performance, about 130*l*.—Sept. 24, the Dee mills destroyed by fire; loss supposed to be 4000*l*.

1790. June 18, Lord Belgrave (the present Lord Grosvenor) elected representative for Chester, in the room of R. W. Bootle, Esq. who resigned.

1791. The Cheshire militia embodied; their parade ground in the Bottom's-fields.—Sept. 6, third grand festival of music.

1792. Jan. 25, the coachman of Mrs. Cowper, of Overleigh, having taken the carriage with a pair of horses down by the toll-house at the bridge, to the river to wash, drove them beyond their depth (the tide then flowing); the footman and horses were drowned; the coachman clung to the carriage, and saved himself.

1793. Jan. 9, Tom Paine burnt in effigy at the Cross.—The lead coffin of Lord Chancellor Gerard, who held the Irish seals in the reign of Elizabeth, found near the altar in St. Oswald's church, in perfect preservation; it had been interred 212 years.

1794. Sir W. W. Wynn's cavalry regiment of Ancient Britons raised, in which were included a great number of Chester lads.—Mr. Ralph Eddowes, long distinguished for his opposition to the corporation, this year embarked for America.

1795. Death of Thomas Grosvenor, Esq. representative of this city for near forty years; he was succeeded by Colonel (now General) Grosvenor, who was member for the city until the year 1826.—At the spring assizes, like those of 1748, there was not a single prisoner for trial.—On the 1st of July, the packet-boat made its first trip on the canal to Ellesmere port.—On the 10th of November, a shock of an earthquake was felt in the city.

1796. Jan. 19, the mail between Chester and Warrington, robbed near Trafford, by Thomas Brown and James Price, who were afterwards executed for the offence.

1797. In this year, in the midst of the French war, the supplementary militia and provisional cavalry were raised; and in April, the regiment of Ancient Britons, commanded by Sir W. W. Wynn, embarked for Ireland.—Oct. 1, the first stone of the large column of the portico of the shire-hall, laid in the presence of the Royal Chester volunteers, invalids of the garrison, and Cornish light-horse.—Oct. 19, the city illuminated in honour of Duncan's victory.—Oct. 27, the mayor's feast formerly held on the first Sunday after his election, abolished by Rowland Jones, mayor.

1798. To the calamities of foreign war, were this year superadded, a bloody rebellion in Ireland, and a voluntary subscription in aid of the country was recommended by government. The sum raised by the city of Chester amounted to 6214*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.*—Arthur O'Connor, the Irish traitor, passed through this city in custody of a king's officer, on his way to Dublin.—During this year, an immense number of military passed through the city on their route to Ireland.—Oct. 4, the city brilliantly illuminated in celebration of Nelson's victory of the Nile.

—Oct. 10, the Nag's-head stables, in Foregate-street, destroyed by fire, in which ten fine horses were burnt to death.

1799. On the 7th of November, the regiment of Ancient Britons arrived in Chester, from Ireland; having by their gallant conduct materially contributed to the suppression of the rebellion in that country.

1800. On the 5th of December, the royal Cheshire militia arrived here, and on the 28th, the supplementary militia, preparatory to their being disbanded.—The 1st of August in this year, wheat sold in Chester market at 25s. per bushel.—Dr. Majendie appointed bishop of the diocese.

1801. Shock of an earthquake felt here about 2 a.m. its direction from north to south.—Aug. 2, dreadful storm of thunder, lightning, and rain: Mr. J. Chamberlain's house in Smith's-walk, struck by the lightning; a young woman so frightened by it, as to cause her almost immediate death.—Oct. 11, the city illuminated in consequence of the peace, a royal salute fired from the castle.

1802. Jan. 21. Dreadful storm of wind; it commenced about nine o'clock in the evening, and continued till the next day in the forenoon. The vanes blown off the churches, and many houses unroofed.—March 31, five prisoners broke out of the castle.—April 25, the militia disembodied.—May 10, the volunteers disbanded at the castle.—July 6. Lord Belgrave and General Grosvenor elected members for the city.—Aug. 5, Earl Grosvenor died; he was the oldest alderman of the corporation of the city. On the 17th, his lordship's remains passed through the city for interment at Eccleston, in grand procession; 23 carriages formed part of it, in nine of which were the mayor and corporation, and a long train of tenantry on horseback.—Aug. 25, first court held by the mayor in the Exchange, since the taking down of the Pentice at the Cross.—Dec. 15. Mr. Drax Grosvenor returned member for the city.

1803. The insolence and ambitious projects of Buonaparte, now raised to the consulship of France, had so fully developed themselves, that it had become obvious in

an early period of this year, hostilities were inevitable. The preparations for invading Britain, made by France, called forth a simultaneous burst of loyalty and patriotism from all classes in every part of the kingdom, and in this competition, the citizens of Chester were not behind the most zealous of their fellow-subjects. In a very brief interval upwards of four hundred thousand men appeared in arms, ready to defend their native shores. So numerous, indeed, were these voluntary associations, that it rendered a previous act of the legislature for raising the levy *en masse* perfectly superfluous. The French ruler viewed with astonishment this extraordinary display of national energy; and though his preparations were continued, the intention of carrying them into effect is thought to have been secretly abandoned. In addition to the grand fleet at Brest, which was supposed to be destined for the invasion of Ireland, an immense number of transports and gun-boats had been ordered to be built, with the greatest expedition, in the French ports, under the idea that some thousands of them might be required. On the 27th of July, a public meeting was held in the Exchange for the purpose of raising a corps, and giving the citizens an opportunity of enrolling their names: the hall was filled to excess, all ranks pressing forward to place themselves among the defenders of their country; and in the course of a few days, the Chester volunteers numbered upwards of thirteen hundred effective men. On the 1st of September, Prince William of Gloucester arrived in Chester; on the day following, the freedom of the city was presented to his highness; and on Sunday the 4th, he inspected the volunteers on the Roodee, and accompanied them to cathedral, where the bishop preached a sermon. On the 21st the London Gazette contained the names of the officers, of whom the following is a list:

Lieut.-Colonel Commandant—Roger Barnston.

Lieut. Colonels—E. O. Wrench, E. Holt.

Majors—J. Wilmot, R. Swetenham.

Captains—C. Hamilton, J. Fluitt, S. Leake, H. R. Hughes, Hon. E. Massey, C. Morrall, P. Humberston, H. Harrison, G. French, W. Massey, R. F. Currie.

Lieutenants—H. Bowers, J. Cotgreave, T. Cotton, H. Grey, P. W. Ward, E. Vernon, G. Archer, J. Ward, P. Flenegan, W. Seller, T. Jenkins, R. Brittain, D. Aldersey, T. Rathbone, J. Parry, E. Roberts, S. Humphreys, T. Evans, J. Cooper, T. Poole, T. Smith, T. Francia, W. Howard, W. Cole, J. Monk.

Ensigns—S. Davies, J. Finchett, J. Moulson, G. Bailey, D. F. Jones, W. Bage, P. Stanford, W. Shaw, T. Crane.

Chaplain—Rev. P. Ward, D.D.

Pay-Master—T. Edwards.

Surgeon—W. Wynne.

Adjutant—W. M. Henderson.

Quarter-Master—R. Bowers.

ARTILLERY COMPANY.—*Captain*—T. Dixon. *Lieutenants*—J. Lloyd, W. Cortney, T. Atkinson.

On the 28th of December, in this year, an affray occurred in the city which threatened serious consequences. A press-gang was here actively engaged in securing seafaring men for his Majesty's navy. On the above day, the volunteers had been on duty; it is probable the press-gang had received information that one of their body, Daniel Jackson, had been at sea, and notwithstanding his military capacity, and while numbers of the corps were walking about the streets, they seized him, with an intent to take him to the rendezvous. This irritated his companions, who attempted a rescue; and after a severe scuffle between the votaries of the land and sea service, Jackson was lodged in the Northgate gaol for security. By this act the volunteers were still more violently incensed, and collecting together in great numbers, still wearing their military habiliments, they surrounded the prison, which they burst open, and liberated their companion. Some slight commotions followed, but the tumult ended without any material injury. A court of inquiry was subsequently held to investigate the affair between the press-gang and the volunteers, when the latter, as a body, were exonerated from censure. At the autumn assizes following, D. Humphreys was convicted of being concerned in the tumult.

1804. Feb. 7, the volunteers inspected by Col. Cuyler.—March 19, the colours presented to the Chester volunteers by the lady of Colonel Barnston, in the area

fronting his house in Foregate-street. After the ceremony, the regiment marched to the cathedral, where the colours were consecrated. From church the corps proceeded about a mile on the Wrexham road, to escort into the city two new beautiful brass field pieces (short sixes) cast at Bersham.—May 18. Ashton light-horse, Wigan rifle corps, and St. Helen's volunteers, on permanent duty here.—June 4, 5, the Chester volunteers marched to Oswestry and Ellesmere.—June 20, the Warrington volunteers marched into Chester on permanent duty.—Oct. 1, the Chester volunteers reviewed by General Burton; after which they set off in 56 waggons through the city to Vicar's Cross, then through Littleton and Christleton to Foregate-street, with a view of ascertaining the facility with which they might be conveyed, in case of invasion.—Oct. 5, the volunteers reviewed by the Duke of Gloucester, and his son, Prince William, on the Roodee. Their royal highnesses were received on the ground with presented arms, followed by a general salute.—In the election for sheriffs this year, Mr. John Williamson was started against Mr. Broster, whose father had rendered himself unpopular by the part he took in favour of the press-gang, in the preceding December. Mr. Williamson was returned, without a contest.—In November, Master Betty, the "Young Roscius," was performing at our theatre.

1805. Parry and Truss's coach manufactory, in Foregate-street, burnt down.—May 15, the Chester volunteers marched to Warrington for 21 days permanent duty.—Nov. 20, the city brilliantly illuminated in honour of Nelson's victory at Trafalgar. On this occasion, the volunteers, at intervals, fired round the city walls a *fou de joie*, and a royal salute was fired by the artillery, stationed opposite Colonel Wrench's house, near the Watergate.—Dec. 10. Death of Dean Cotton, at Bath.

1806. March 4, old buildings at the Cross pulled down.—May 22, Davies Davenport, Esq. returned for the county, in the room of W. Egerton, Esq. deceased.—July 28, dreadful storm; the mast of a ship at the Crane

shivered to pieces by the lightning.—Sept. 14, loss of the King George packet, off Hoylake, in this port, with 170 passengers on board; only the steward and four sailors were saved.—Sept. 30, a grand festival of music.—Oct. 31, General Grosvenor and R. E. D. Grosvenor returned members for the city.—Nov. 25, the snuff mills burnt down.

1807. Jan. 7, a watchman named Boulton found drowned in the canal locks at the Tower Wharf; verdict, *wilful murder*.—May 6, Mr. John Egerton elected member of parliament for the city.—Oct. 23, Earl Grosvenor elected mayor.—Nov. 5, five convicts made their escape from the castle.—Dec. 15, grand dinner given by Mr. Egerton to the officers of the volunteers at Oulton.

1808. Jan. 1, splendid dinner given by Earl Grosvenor (mayor) at the Exchange, to 200 persons: a Christmas pie on the table which weighed 154lbs.—Nov. Chester local militia established; its number 1223 men.

1809. Jan. 13, the sugar-house in Cuppin-street destroyed by fire.—Jan. 27, fire in the Hop-pole-yard; part of the Chronicle-office destroyed, and a large quantity of stationary.—July 5, Union-hall in Foregate-street first opened.—Oct. B. E. Sparks bishop of Chester.—Oct. 25, celebration of the jubilee; his Majesty having attained the 50th year of his reign. An ox roasted. The corporation and all the public bodies went in procession to the cathedral.—Oct. 31, the Cheshire militia left this city for Taunton.

1810. May 12, the shop of Mr. Fletcher, watchmaker, at the Eastgate, robbed, for which two men, Smith and Clarke, were afterwards executed.—July 10, the bank of Messrs. Rowton and Morhall stopped payment.—Aug. 22, the Prince of Orange visited Chester.—Nov. 9, a piece of plate, value 150gs. holding about two gallons, presented by the officers of the local militia, to Colonel Barnston.—General Grosvenor elected mayor.

1811. Scaffolding erecting for taking down the spire of Trinity church.—June 20, first stone of the Propylæum, or great entrance to the castle, laid by Lieut.-col. Traf-

ford, of the Congleton local militia.—Sept. Earl Grosvenor presented two elegant full-length portraits of himself and his noble father, to the corporation, which were placed in the council chamber.—Dec. 5, Parry and Truss's coach manufactory burnt down a *second* time.

1812. April 23, arrival of a great number of Luddites at the castle, escorted by the Ashton Hayes cavalry.—May 6, a strong detachment of the Chester regiment of local militia, with their rifle and artillery companies, with field pieces, and a large supply of ammunition, marched to quell the riots in and about Stockport.—Part of the local militia assembled on permanent duty in the city, during the trials of the rioters by the special commission.—May 24, opening of the commission: on this occasion an iron railing was for the first time fixed round the bar.—Sir W. W. Wynn elected Mayor this year.

1813. June, Mr. Webb, the philanthropist visited the city; he left several small donations to be distributed under the supervision of that estimable gentleman, Dr. Thackeray.—Dec. Mrs. Jordan performed at the theatre.—This year the new clock at St. Peter's was put up, by Mr. Ald. R. Bowers. St. Michael's clock also had the addition of a new face and minute movement.—Jan. 10, this day, the *Chester Herald* died a natural death; it had been commenced in 1810, by Mr. Cutter, but never gave a fair promise of a permanent existence.

1814. June 17, the city illumined in commemoration of the general peace. Dinners were given by the principal tradesmen to their workmen; a regatta took place on the Dee, and the bells of the cathedral were for the first time in the interval of sixty years rung. In fastening up the lamps at the new bank, a stone was displaced, which fell upon a fine young woman below, and fracturing her skull, her death ensued.—July 7, a grand procession of the corporation, trade companies, free masons, friendly societies, &c. to the cathedral, being the day of thanksgiving for the peace.—Aug. 15, the citizens of Chester, anxious to shew their admiration of the heroic generals, Lords Combermere and Hill, for their noble exploits

under the immortal Wellington, in Portugal, Spain and France, invited them to a grand dinner at the Royal Hotel. Lord Combermere was escorted from Hawarden (coming out of Wales) by Sir S. R. Glynne's troop of light horse, under the command of Lieut. S. Boydell. At Overlegh the generals ascended a triumphal car, elegantly decorated, and drawn by four white horses, with drivers in scarlet liveries; they were then addressed by Colonel Barnston, in a most elegant, energetic and appropriate complimentary speech, to which each of the noble generals returned short and modest answers. At the Bridgegate they were received by the corporation in their robes, with the sword and mace of the city, the mayor congratulating the generals on their safe return after their glorious career of victory in the Peninsula; they were conducted through files of the 22nd regiment to the Exchange, where the freedom of the city was conferred in the usual manner, and afterwards escorted to the Royal Hotel, where a sumptuous dinner had been prepared, and the ball-room splendidly decorated for the occasion. A very large and most respectable company attended; every thing was conducted with the utmost regularity, and the noble lords several times addressed the meeting in suitable speeches, on the healths of themselves and of other members of their families being drank.—Sept. 21, a man named George Post, who had been convicted on false evidence of highway robbery, and was to have been executed on the 24th, received a respite, and afterwards a free pardon. He was indebted for his life to the indefatigable exertions of the humane constable of the castle, Mr. Hudson.—Sept. 27, grand festival of music.—Nov. St. Mary's church-yard inclosed with iron railing.

1815. March 8, the body of Frances Buller, a respectable woman between 60 and 70 years of age, from Newton-in-the-Willows, was discovered lying on the river bank, near the sluice-house; the skull was completely fractured in several directions, the bones of the nose and forehead beat in, with some incisions as if given with a sharp instrument, the skin was also off her hands, and

there were other bruises as if received in struggling with some one, or warding off blows. A very full investigation before the coroner took place, when the jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against some person or persons unknown.—Sept. 23, Kean, the tragedian, first appeared at the Chester theatre, in the character of Richard III.—Oct. 23, the Prince Regent's regiment of Cheshire yeomanry cavalry, about 420 strong, and a remarkably fine body of men most admirably mounted, under the command of their colonel, Sir J. F. Leicester, marched into the city on permanent duty.

1816. March, Ann Moore, the celebrated *FASTING* woman, confined in the castle, for a robbery at Stockport: during her confinement, she *miraculously* recovered her appetite.—April 21, the body of Samuel Williams, collector of the Northgate tolls, found in the canal, under the old house of correction; it was supposed by some that he had been murdered.—May 24, the warehouse of Mr. Whittell, on the Roodee, destroyed by fire.—July 4, the mayor, J. Catgreave, Esq. received the honour of knighthood.—Sept. 4, the different lodges of the free masons went in procession from the Feathers inn to Boughton, from whence they proceeded in carriages, to assist the P. G. M. in the ceremony of laying the key stone of the steeple arch of Delamere church.

1817. On the 4th of Jan. the grand duke Nicholas of Russia (the present emperor) who had been making a tour of the northern part of England, visited Chester. He was attended by General Kutosow, whose father had driven Buonaparte out of Russia, General Sowreason, and several other Russian noblemen. On the following day, his highness, attended by his suite, inspected our walls and several of the public buildings, and in the evening set off for Wynnstay, the seat of Sir W. W. Wynn. When the illustrious stranger inspected his sleeping apartment at the Royal Hotel, he ordered a quantity of clean straw to be placed on the floor in a convenient part of the room, for his bed, observing to Mrs. Jackson, that he was a soldier, and that was the material on which he always

reposed.—A subscription of 1500*l.* raised in aid of the poor during the severity of the season.—On the 28th of February, a public meeting was held at the Town-hall, convened by the mayor, to consider the propriety of petitioning parliament against the suspension of the *habeas corpus* act, and notwithstanding a strong opposition was offered, the resolutions for petitions were carried by large majorities. At this period, an active political ferment pervaded the country generally, and especially the manufacturing districts of this county. The dangerous yell for annual parliaments and universal suffrage had been echoed by the demagogue orators of the day, and every grade beneath the middle ranks of society, rose up in arms to support the sacred cause. Popular meetings held in the open air, became general, and doctrines that threatened the subversion of all government were proclaimed in language approaching to rebellion. On the 13th of March, a coach, escorted by a strong body of the Earl of Chester's cavalry arrived at the castle, containing 21 of these infatuated men, charged with treasonable and seditious practices, apprehended at Heaton Norris, and committed to our castle, under the act then recently passed for suspending the *habeas corpus* act.—On the 3rd of June a very serious fire occurred in the ship-yard of Mr. Cortney, near the Crane, by which considerable property was destroyed.—The ministers of the crown having intimated an intention of extending the term for the suspension of the *habeas corpus* act, a second public meeting was held at the Town-hall, and resolutions adopted by the majority, to present petitions to the legislature against that measure; counter-petitions were also signed and presented. In the following week, a number of respectable gentlemen of the city held a meeting in the Inner Pentice, and agreed to form an association, to be called the *King and Constitution Club*; of this club, Colonel Barnston was elected president, and the members, in a few days were announced to be one hundred and forty-eight.—On the 20th of October, a savings bank for the city was established, at a public meeting held at the Town

hall.—The 19th of November, was a day on which the citizens of Chester warmly sympathized in the national sorrow, and on which were committed to the dust, the remains of the Princess Charlotte of Wales: not only were the shutters closed, but all the shops were completely made up, and there was a general suspension of business: the pulpits were hung with black, and deep mourning generally worn: at an early hour in the morning the bells of the several churches commenced tolling by minutes, and continued their mournful monotony till midnight.—In September in this year, a *second* attempt was made to establish a *third* newspaper in this city, under the title of the *Chester Guardian*, which in its commencement appeared to possess an extent of patronage that bade fair to draw it through all the disadvantages of an infant up-hill establishment. Several influential individuals in the county, who embraced nobility in their train, and a still greater number of gentlemen within the city, opened their purse-strings, and subscribed what were considered ample sums in aid of this favourite undertaking. A gentleman of the name of Gorton, a man of superior talent, was brought down from London, as the Editor, to whom was assigned a salary which few provincial journals could bear, while every department of the concern was over-weighted with expence. The political principles of the paper were decidedly those of the *Whig*, or *Liberal*, and indeed, the dissemination of these was obviously more an object with the proprietors, than profit. But the spirit of the times in this district was then adverse, generally speaking, to all national policy that was not directed by the government, and the Guardian received but a very partial share of public support. It is also to be considered, that where there is already a medium of public communication sufficient for the purposes of trade, commerce, and intelligence, every additional vehicle operates as a tax upon all descriptions of property; and as *two* newspapers had long been existing in the city, the necessity of a *third*, for any of these objects, were not recognized. Hence this essential source of a newspaper's

revenue failing with the Guardian, connected with its limited circulation, imposed the necessity of a continual demand upon the pockets of its *parents*; who, in about two years grew weary of the expenses, and finally left it to its fate. In an evil hour, Mr. Galway, who for some time had been its printer, took the concern upon himself, and dragged on the paper till the month of November, 1823, when it demised. Thus after two attempts to establish a third paper in Chester, in both which several thousand pounds have been thrown away, the fatality of such a project is quite apparent. The district is not equal to it; and nothing but extreme incapacity, or excessive delinquency in one or both of the present journals, can ever warrant the experiment.

1818. I have in vain looked through the annals of this year for something interesting or amusing; but scarcely an incident is to be found either of importance or novelty beyond this, that the sun rose and set as usual. I of course except two electioneering contests which occurred, one for members of parliament, and the other for city sheriffs; but the account of these will be embodied in the *Political History*.

1819. In January this year, some additional light was thrown upon Foregate-street, by the introduction of gas-lamps.—About one o'clock at noon, on the 6th of March, the city was thrown into great agitation, in which exultation and gloom were about equally blended, by the arrival of an express from London, bringing intelligence that a committee of the commons had pronounced that General Grosvenor and Lord Belgrave were the members duly elected; against whose return Sir J. G. Egerton and Mr. Williams had petitioned.—On the same night, however, an occurrence took place in the city, which could only excite one common feeling of sorrow. A little before twelve o'clock, it was discovered that a fire had broken out in the upper story of that extensive building, the Dee Mills. The progress of the flames were extremely rapid, and in half an hour the entire fabric presented one vast volume of flame. There was a great

quantity of corn, both barley and wheat, on the premises, and the flames ascending to an immense height, illuminated the country throughout a circuit of several miles—presenting a magnificent but terrific spectacle; the engines were soon on the spot, and were ably directed. The saving of the mills soon became a hopeless object, and it then occurred as a matter of the highest importance, to prevent the spread of the devouring element to the property adjoining, for at one time the water-works and the paper-mill were in imminent peril. Those buildings were fortunately secured, as was also the whole line of warehouses in Skinner-street. In the mean time every endeavour was used to save the property in the mill, but about 100 bags of corn only were thrown out. Mr. Frost, with much difficulty and appalling risk, contrived to snatch his books from the general ruin, but a man considerably advanced in years, named Davies, fell a victim to his intrepidity—he was literally burnt to a cinder; and when found about eleven o'clock next morning, merely the body, shoulders, and thighs remained, parched into an undistinguishable mass, not three feet in length. About two o'clock on Sunday morning the roof fell in, and by six o'clock, a portion only of the outside walls remained standing. Two of the engines were employed nearly the whole of Sunday playing on the smoking ruins. How the fire originated could not be ascertained, but no doubt existed that it was entirely accidental. The destruction of property has been estimated at 40,000*l.* the building, however, was ensured to a considerable amount. It is somewhat extraordinary, that this was the third time these mills had been destroyed by fire. This immense edifice has been rebuilt, but it is a subject of deep regret, that the offer of the proprietor to fall back in the foundation, by which the entrance to the bridge would have been materially widened, was not acceded to.—On the 15th of March a public meeting was held in the Town-hall, to take into consideration the propriety of petitioning parliament to erect a bridge over the river Conway, &c. &c. when a petition was adopted. This

national measure has been since completed ; which, taken in connection with the fine new bridge over the Dee at Chester, will certainly tend to preserve our present, if not restore a portion of our lost travelling, from the north and eastern counties of England through Chester to Ireland.—On the 10th of May, Gen. Grosvenor was presented with a piece of plate, in the form of a candelabra, by the mayor, at the Feathers Inn, on behalf of his fellow-citizens, for his long and faithful parliamentary services ; on which occasion, a grand dinner was given.—Oct. 16th, Prince Leopold, consort of our beloved Princess Charlotte, honoured the city with a visit. His royal highness had been invited by Earl Grosvenor, to spend a few days at Eaton-hall, from whence he made several excursions to the city, whose antiquities he examined with great precision. The prince remained with his noble host from Saturday to Tuesday, in which interval he was presented with the freedom of the city by the corporation.—An opposition to the corporation nomination of mayor and sheriff was this year again attempted, but in both cases failed ; Mr. Williamson was raised to the office of chief magistrate, and Mr. Sefton to that of sheriff.—Great popular commotions pervaded the neighbouring county of Lancaster, and some parts of Cheshire during this year. The phrenzy for parliamentary reform seems now to have reached its zenith ; but the city itself was preserved in undisturbed placidity. In the manufacturing districts, where the very lowest grade of society formed the overwhelming bulk of the population, the harangues of mob orators were suited to the capacities and the inflamed passions of the multitude ; but here, if not higher in the scale of intellectual endowments, the lower orders of Chester were at least less under the influence of depraved principles ; and it deserves to be recorded to the credit of our old city, that during the long period of political conflict the district was destined to endure, I am not aware of a single inhabitant who was drawn into the vortex of disaffection.

1820. In January the gentry and higher orders in the city were laudably employed in raising a public

subscription for the suffering poor in the city during the inclemency of a severe season, which was liberally supported and effectively applied; Earl Grosvenor headed the subscription by a benefaction of 100*l.*—Towards the end of this month, the citizens were called upon to mourn for the death of the king's fourth son, the Duke of Kent; and in a very few days afterwards, for our revered monarch, George the Third.—On the 16th of June, the court of king's bench granted a rule for a criminal information against Mr. Williamson, mayor of Chester, for refusing to admit several individuals to their freedom during the late election, by which Sir J. G. Egerton had been deprived of his seat in parliament.—On the 23rd of December, the Duke of Wellington, by invitation, paid a visit to Combermere Abbey, the seat of his friend and companion in arms, Lord Combermere. A knowledge of this fact having transpired, a numerous meeting of the gentry and principal tradesmen of the city was held at the Exchange, when it was unanimously resolved to invite the hero of Waterloo to a grand public dinner. A deputation being appointed to wait upon his grace, to obtain his consent, the following Wednesday, the 27th, was fixed upon, when his grace, accompanied by Lord Combermere and suite, arrived within our walls. He took up his quarters at the Albion Hotel, from whence he made a short excursion to the castle, inspected that building, armoury, &c. and afterwards proceeded to the Exchange, where a most sumptuous banquet had been prepared. Colonel Barnston presided at the festive board, which was surrounded by about 150 guests, amongst whom were Lords Combermere, Hill, and Kenyon, Sir W. W. Wynn, Sir James Lyon, Sir H. M. Mainwaring, Col. Thomas Cholmondeley, Major-General Beckwith, and other individuals of distinction. During the evening, and indeed while he remained in Chester, his grace received every mark of respect that could be shewn to a character, whose eminent services in the field of honour had entitled him to the gratitude of his country. It has been spoken of as a subject of regret, that the usual

compliment of presenting the duke with the freedom of the city was omitted ; but I am inclined to think, that this omission arose solely from a mistake or misapprehension in some of those individuals whose business it was to attend to the necessary proceedings, and not to any intentional disrespect.—This year was distinguished by another severe contest for the representation, and by more than usual acrimony on general politics. The proceedings against Queen Caroline had nearly equally divided the citizens ; and although the government party laboured to bring the friends of her Majesty into disrepute, by identifying them with disaffection and radicalism, yet still, many of the most loyal of the king's subjects in the city were decidedly opposed to the measures of administration on this important question.—In this year a whig club was established at Chester, for Cheshire and several of the adjoining counties, which held its annual meetings at the Royal Hotel.

1821. On the night of the 13th of January, a fire broke out in the paint room of the extensive lead works of Messrs. Walker and Co. which threatened the most disastrous consequences to that ponderous establishment ; but by an early attendance of the engines, and active exertions of the citizens, the ravages of the flames were confined to the place where the fire originated.—The coronation of George IV. was celebrated with great magnificence in the city on the 11th of June ; three fine triumphal arches were erected at the ends of Bridge-street, Northgate-street, and Eastgate-street ; a grand procession, consisting of the clergy in their canonicals, body corporate, children composing the schools, the clubs, trade companies, royal mail and other coaches, a detachment of the 88th regiment, with bands of music, paraded the principal streets, and afterwards attended divine service at the cathedral ; and a grand dinner was given at the Albion Hotel by the king and constitution club. On Tuesday the 25th of September, a grand festival of music commenced in our fine cathedral, which closed on the Friday ; this, like all the former festivals, yielded

a handsome sum to our public charities.—The month of October in this year was a time of bustle and conflict among our corporators and anti-corporators, two sets of aldermen and common councilmen being elected, but the particulars will fall to our political history.

1822. On the 24th of March, the Sunday evening lecture at St. Mary's church was opened by a discourse from the Rev. F. Ayckbowm, which has been continued and well supported ever since.—On the 31st of March, Samuel Yate Benyon, Esq. Recorder of Chester, died in London.—A most afflictive accident happened in the city on the 29th June, by the bursting of a steam boiler in Cuppin-street, belonging to Mr. Boulton, tobacco manufacturer. The explosion was terrific, and instantly laid a considerable portion of the premises in ruins; the windows of the adjoining houses were completely broken, and a building near fifty yards from the scene of destruction set on fire by pieces of ignited fuel falling upon its roof. The boiler employed in this manufactory was connected with machinery requiring steam of great expansive force for its movements, and known by the term of a *high pressure engine*. It appears that on the preceding evening, the engine was put in full work, and the machinery acted in the best possible manner. It was then determined to make a more decided trial the following day, preparatory to the putting the whole in motion on the succeeding Monday. The steam was speedily raised in a very powerful manner, so much so, that it is said, the boiler was perceived to have a sort of oscillating movement for a considerable time. At this period, when the steam had attained an expansive force which could not be restrained, and while Mr. Boulton and four of his men were standing close to the machine, the boiler suddenly burst, owing to the safety valve being improperly overloaded. The men were thrown back with resistless violence, all of them dreadfully scalded and bruised, so much so, that one of them, Richard Wildman, died of his wounds on Monday evening. Two others were conveyed to the infirmary, most seriously injured. Mr. Boulton was

forced with his breast on a grinding-stone, and was nearly buried in the ruins occasioned by the explosion; and in this situation a heavy beam fell upon his back. Indeed it was next to a miracle that any one of them escaped without instantaneous death. Prompt assistance was had from the neighbours, and the rubbish being removed, the sufferers were extricated. Mr. Boulton was carried to an adjoining public-house, where every attention was afforded to him; in the evening he was removed to his own house in Foregate-street, and it was then thought that a hope might be indulged for his recovery—but alas! that hope soon fled: symptoms of inflammation became apparent, and Mr. B. laboured under a great pressure at the stomach. He was in extreme pain, but throughout his agonizing sufferings he was calm and collected, making repeated enquiries after the welfare of his men. About eleven o'clock on Tuesday night, he was released from his sufferings, leaving a wife, and several children, the eldest of whom is now a partner in the respectable firm of Poole and Boulton, booksellers. Mr. Boulton was in the 42nd year of his age; his remains were interred in the unitarian burial ground, in this city. Two of the unfortunate men of Mr. Boulton, Thomas and James Owen, brothers, who were present at the explosion, and had been removed to the infirmary, survived the accident but a few days, thus making four human beings who fell victims to a kind of scientific experiment.—During the greater part of this year, there was a great bustle in the city for the erection of market halls. Public meetings were held, the object of which seemed to be quite indifferent to those who attended them; resolutions passed which were never carried into execution; and committees formed, apparently for no other purpose than to make a report, that they had done—*nothing*! At one time, the old linen-hall was to be the site for the new markets, but this project was met with an objection that it was dean and chapter property, and could not be alienated; then the piece of ground behind the Feathers hotel in Bridge-street, was the favourite spot, but this

was rejected on account of the difficulties of making the approaches. Anon, a parcel of ground on the west side of the fish-shambles; then some unimportant land on the south side of Watergate-street; and lastly, the site of the new linen-hall, were situations each recommended in its turn, and each in its turn decided against. In short, the whole year passed away, and at the end of it, the project was just where it was at the beginning. The improvement was destined to remain unaccomplished and even untouched for several years after this period. It must be acknowledged, however, that several gentlemen laboured with great zeal and industry in the promotion of the scheme; and perhaps no individual shewed equal unbending perseverance with W. H. Folliott, Esq. who displayed unwearied diligence in urging the point; no meeting was convened in which this gentleman did not pour forth the force of his eloquence; and scarcely was a newspaper printed in which the most cogent arguments were not offered. —At the same time, or a short time before, the market-hall scheme was prosecuting, the attention of the Chester people was directed to another project, originating with Mr. Broster, which, however, was destined to share the same fate. This was a scheme for forming a steam-packet establishment at Dawpool: a spot on the Wirral side of the Dee, about four miles below Parkgate, which, it was assumed would open a safe and speedy passage to Ireland. It was calculated also, that if this establishment could be brought about, it would almost supersede the Shrewsbury line of road to Holyhead, and restore to the city of Chester its former importance as a thoroughfare to the sister island. It must be confessed that Dawpool is admirably adapted for the purpose intended, and probably superior to any other station on the coast. “One of the largest class of steam vessels,” says Lieutenant Monk, of the royal navy, “would always have sufficient depth of water to come into and sail out of Dawpool. Dawpool possesses many advantages over Liverpool for steam vessels to sail from and to Dublin.” And the testimony of Mr. Gibbon, of the Ballast-office, Dublin, is

still more decisive. He says, "I have frequently passed over Chester bar with a head wind, at low water, in vessels of ten feet draught, and ran up to Dawpool; the great safety of the passage, compared to that of Liverpool, strikes me as a recommendation that must ensure success. Navigating within, in place of outside the great Hoyle Bank, is very desirable indeed; for in case of encountering heavy seas or thick weather, you have the land close aboard, and several convenient harbours to shelter in." Printed descriptions of the place, with the advantages to be derived from the scheme, accompanied with plans and drawings, were plentifully circulated, and an interest excited that promised the most successful results. A public meeting was held at the Town-hall, at which resolutions were agreed upon to procure soundings and a survey, for which the celebrated engineer Mr. Telford was engaged, and to defray the expenses, a subscription was entered into. Thus far all went on swimmingly. But, alas! a circumstance was soon developed, which seemed to put an extinguisher upon the whole undertaking. Although the report of Mr. Telford was upon the whole favourable to the practicability of the plan, yet in its tail was contained the onerous fact, that the sum of *thirty thousand pounds* would be requisite to build suitable piers and prepare other necessary apparatus at Dawpool for the proposed establishment. Some further ineffectual efforts were attempted to surmount this astounding obstacle, but, however the public feelings had been excited in favour of the project, the whole affair terminated, a few bills of some tradesmen only remaining undischarged, *for want of assets*.—At the close of this year, the city of Chester, in common with many other places in the neighbourhood, was visited by one of the severest storms of wind that had ever been known in this latitude. This tremendous storm occurred during the night of Thursday the 5th of December. About four o'clock in the afternoon the wind blew from the west, and brought with it a heavy fall of rain; it increased hourly, and the rain fell in torrents, but nothing serious was yet

apprehended. Between nine and ten, when the wind had shifted to the north-west, the resistless gusts of wind gave melancholy note of the devastation which was approaching; the sky was pitchy dark, and the spirit of the storm rode in tremendous majesty; and what at this time not a little tended to increase the general alarm, was the ringing of the fire-bell, and the whirling of the watchmens' rattles. A fire had broken out at Mr. Holland's, in King-street, and notwithstanding the gas-lights were mostly extinguished, the sign-posts and shutters making a deafening rattle, the rain descending in torrents, the wind blowing an hurricane, and the slates and brick-bats flying in all descriptions, yet were there thousands of people in the streets, flocking to the fire. Providentially the latter calamity was trifling in itself, and was soon put out, and the multitude sought shelter in their various habitations. The anxieties and alarms of that horrific night will perhaps never be obliterated from the recollection of those who witnessed its wide-spreading desolation; there was no neighbourhood, nor scarcely a habitation, but was either the scene of ruin, or their inmates placed within hearing of the crash of falling chimnies, the bursting in of windows, or the confused noise of broken fragments of houses descending upon the pavement. The storm continued to rage with unceasing fury till about three o'clock in the morning, when it suddenly abated, as if worn out by its own over-exerted violence. Until this hour few eyes, except those of unconscious infancy, had been closed; and those who now retired to short repose, awoke in the morning only to behold the general desolation. The author well remembers perambulating the city on the morning of the 6th, when the scene before him presented an idea of a place that had been bombarded. The streets were strewn with stones, brick, timber, slates, broken window frames, glass, and every other material used in building—in some places they lay in immense heaps—roofs and walls completely cleared away, so as to expose the furniture in the interior. In noticing this calamitous visitation, I shall briefly

recount a few of its distressing results. Many of the windows of our venerable cathedral were entirely destroyed—several large fruit trees in the Kale-yards, although protected by the city walls, were torn up by the roots, and laid prostrate on the ground. The free-school nearly unroofed, and the lead from Mrs. Williams's house at the east end of Abbey-street curled up, and hurled beyond the walls; many of the houses in George-street much damaged; a wall blown down in Abbey-green. The blue coat hospital seriously injured; many windows blown out in Further Northgate-street; and a wall belonging to W. Ward, Esq. levelled with the ground; material injury was also sustained by the houses in King's-buildings, the roof of one of which was laid open; by the higher wards of the castle; by the warehouses in Skinner's-lane, and by the Dee mills. A little before twelve o'clock, the massive and lofty chimney of Mr. Ellis's house, the Talbot, in Newgate-street, notwithstanding it was bound to the adjoining chimney of the Royal Hotel by a thick bar of iron, and carrying with it nearly all the roof, completely destroyed the upper bed-rooms, hurling the pediment front, windows and coping-stones into the street, in one promiscuous heap! At the same time, the chimney of Miss Coker and Bryan, also adjoining, in its fall destroyed a great portion of the roof of their dwelling, and broke into their bed-rooms, which two of the family had a few seconds before left. But the escape of Mr. Ellis's children and family was almost miraculous. One of them, a fine boy, was actually on his way up stairs, when the tremendous avalanche took place. Another extraordinary escape occurred at Mr. Allender's, in Eastgate-street; Mr. and Mrs. A. had retired to their bed-room in an attic story, about twelve o'clock. The former had got into bed, but Mrs. A. having forgotten something below, went down stairs. She had scarcely quitted the room when a tremendous gust of wind brought down the chimney upon the roof, which giving way, penetrated into the bed-room, at the same time forcing outward into the yard behind its entire front. Mr. A. jumped out

of bed, but the materials which had fallen in, had barricaded the door, and it was not before he had lifted it off its hinges, that he found the means of escape from the scene of ruins. One of the bedsteads, from four to five inches in diameter, was snapped in two by the weight of the falling materials. Had Mrs. A. remained in the room half a minute longer, it is hardly possible she could have escaped instant death. A fourth escape was instanced in the Abbey-square. Two chimnies were blown down at the house of G. Rowland, Esq.; one of them fell into an adjoining yard, but the other burst through the roof into the bed-room of one of the maid servants, who was in the act of taking a lamp from the dressing-table, but she providentially escaped unhurt.—At Mr. Huxley's, writing stationer, in Watergate-street, his two young men had just gone to bed, when a chimney, which sprang immediately above, fell into the room, and though the rubbish every where surrounded them, they were untouched. A similar escape occurred at Mr. Lewis's, in Bridge-street, where the chimney fell into the room of Mr. Durack, who was in bed. The Royal Hotel suffered considerably during the storm by the fall of chimnies, and the destruction of sky-lights and other glass, which broke into the house, and spread the stair-cases over with fragments of bricks and slates.—Chimnies were blown down at the houses of Mr. Prob. Maddock, the late Mr. Townshend, Mrs. Potts, the Rev. M. Taylor, Mrs. Nicholls, Mr. Ellis, wine-merchant, Mr. Shearing, druggist, Mr. Palin, Mr. Heppard, Mr. Huxley, cheesemonger, Mrs. Rutter, &c. &c. which did great damage to the roofs. Mr. Palin's house was almost unroofed, as was that of Alderman Rogers, near the castle, in which quarter the storm was particularly furious. The union and commercial halls sustained considerable injury; the lofty wall of the ball court at the Brewer's Arms, in Foregate-street, was blown down, as was that of Mrs. Massey's garden, facing the Groves; another in Queen-street, and a fourth at Mr. Fletcher's, Further Northgate-street, the roof of whose house was much injured. The damage in the

suburbs, at Handbridge and Boughton, was extensive; and indeed the whole surrounding country felt the disastrous consequences. Of these it is not my province to state the particulars, but I cannot omit the recital of a most calamitous event connected with the storm, which involved a great loss of human life, namely, the wreck of the Prince Regent steam packet, plying between Liverpool and Ellesmere port. The packet sailed from the pier-head for the latter place about three o'clock on Thursday, with from 22 to 24 persons on board, the crew included. The wind at that time blew pretty strong, but as it was quite a-head, no fears were entertained by those aboard. The vessel, however, made little progress, as the tide was ebbing; and about five o'clock, when she was near Eastham, the gale had very much increased. Some slight apprehensions were then entertained by several passengers, but they were quieted by the confidence with which the captain (James Dimond) spoke of their safety. At six, the packet was off Pool-hall, about a mile from Ellesmere Port, and at this time the extreme violence of the storm rendered their danger imminent and obvious. The vessel was tossing about in all directions, and had become nearly unmanageable—the night extremely dark and chilly. The captain was recommended by Mr. J. Hickson, of Ellesmere Port, to run the boat into a neighbouring creek whilst opportunity afforded, and which advice, if taken, would probably have been the means of saving all on board; but Dimond objected, persisting in declaring that the vessel would live; and then put her round, in order to return to Liverpool. His endeavours to return, however, were impracticable, the tide was receding, and the boat beating about, and heaving on the banks. The pitchy darkness of the atmosphere, the bustle which prevailed, and the total absence of all light even in the distance, had already enthroned terror on her awful throne. As one resource it was suggested that the anchor should be thrown out—it was done; but the vessel dragged; and in the midst of the howling sea, about midnight, a violent concussion alarmed the passengers with the idea

that they had struck against a bank or rock, and were about to be engulfed in the waste of waters. One side of the packet was, at this time, under water, and despair was now at its height. It was soon discovered, that they had struck against a flat (belonging to Mr. Fletcher, of Chester) which remained but a few seconds alongside, in which time many of the passengers and all the crew availed themselves of the opportunity of getting on board, the captain only excepted, who said he would stay by the vessel. Mr. Burt, artist of this city, and Mr. Hickson, jun. were in the number; the former had a very narrow escape, having clung for several minutes by his hands to the side of the flat before he could muster strength to gain the deck. At this perilous moment, the flat separated from the packet, and the violence of the tempest hurried her out rapidly into the current of the river. What a moment was this for parental feeling! for the separation of the two vessels had also severed Mr. Burt from a beloved son, a fine boy about nine years old, whom he had left in the packet *for ever*. The packet was thus again left by itself, and the captain determined on cutting the cable: this was a work of some time, there being only small pocket knives on board. The task, however, was accomplished, and the vessel soon drifted, as was afterwards discovered, towards Ellesmere. At this time there were no coals on board; the engine furnace was burnt out. Her course became more irregular every yard of her progress—the waves incessantly dashing over her, and there were several feet of water in the cabin. It was near one o'clock when the tide began to flow, and with it the peril of those on board increased. The vessel continued striking on the bank as the waves gave the impetus; eventually, however, she took ground a short distance west of Stanlow-house, and the faint glimmerings of a hazy moon, which now dimly rendered “darkness visible,” only served to make their situation more frightful. They were within seventy yards of the shore, and the intermediate distance was chiefly composed of that species of mud and quicksands called a *land-sough*;—it

was nearly four o'clock. The captain became very anxious that the passengers should endeavour to reach the shore, and at last his exhortations had effect. Mr. Nixon, a farmer from the neighbouring village of Stanney, leapt into the surf, and gained the bank in safety; he was followed by Mr. Henry Whittell, son of Dr. Whittell, and Mr. W. Leatherbarrow, both of this city, and with equal good fortune. Although at this time the wind had greatly abated, there was still a heavy sea, and about fourteen persons on board. The captain would on no account leave the vessel, and having a weather coat on, he was preparing to take it off: but when he had stripped it over his arms nearly to his shoulders, it is conjectured that being benumbed, or the lining of the coat getting entangled, he was completely pinioned, and a heavy sea at that moment rushing over the deck, washed him and his infant son into the sea, where they perished. The vessel soon after sunk in deeper water, and amongst the other sufferers on board, were the son of Mr. Burt (before noticed), Mr. W. Davies, a millwright, Mrs. Deakin, of Back Brook-street, Chester, with her child in her arms, the blind fiddler who attended the boat, and a man advanced in years—all these fell victims to the terrific storm. The disasters of that dreadful night in the Mersey and on the coast were truly appalling.

1823. On Monday the 24th of February, the coach manufactory of Mr. Parry, in Foregate-street, *for the third time*, was completely destroyed by fire. The fire was discovered between two and three o'clock in the morning, and raged with such fury, that the whole building, with its contents, were totally consumed in less than two hours; but the contiguous dwellings were with difficulty saved from destruction. From a subsequent examination as to the origin of the fire, there were strong reasons for believing it had been purposely communicated.—Great rejoicings took place in this city on the 26th of April, on the birth of a son to Lord Viscount Belgrave, and of course presumptive heir to the house of Grosvenor. Intensely as the citizens of Chester had for many years

been engaged in party warfare, the better feelings of the heart upon this occasion triumphed over political hostility, and the whole city appeared to be in one mind to shew their high respect to this noble family on the joyful occasion. A very liberal subscription was raised in which all ranks and parties united, for the purpose of giving eclat to public rejoicings on an extended scale. A fine ox was roasted on the Roodee, and distributed to the populace, with a suitable quantity of bread, to which were appended twenty barrels of strong ale. Earl Grosvenor, in the midst of a numerous company of gentry, witnessed this scene of festivity, with all its concomitants of fun and frolic, from the roof of the grand stand, where he was greeted with repeated cheers from the populace. A grand dinner was given at the Royal Hotel, where his lordship was present, and in the evening, there was a splendid display of fire works on the Roodee.—On the 13th of May, a young gentleman of the name of Yate, of considerable personal accomplishments and good connexions, met with a premature death, by the upsetting of his boat in the Dee, opposite the Groves, while taking an aquatic excursion, in company with two others. He had indiscreetly hoisted too much sail, when a sudden gust of wind upset the boat, which sunk in deep water. The two young gentlemen in company with him both made the shore in safety; but Mr. Yate immediately went under water, and could not be found for at least an hour afterwards.—During the spring and summer of this year, the Dawpool steam packet station occupied a considerable portion of public attention; the committee, which had been formed in the preceding year, pressed the subject with great zeal and perseverance, but with little success, the main sinew of public improvements being still wanting. The merchants, tradesmen, and post-masters of Chester were appealed to, and the advantages of the scheme placed before them in the most advantageous light, but the dull Cestrians had no taste for a speculation which required the advance of a considerable sum before there was a *certainty* of ample remuneration. Nor were

the good people of Liverpool more disposed to enter into the measure, but probably for a very different reason; they did not appear to have any taste for transferring the advantages they were in possession of to the *Dee*. At all events, I am not aware of any offers from individuals on either side the Mersey that promised the slightest chance of carrying the project into effect. As the last expiring effort to forward the Dawpool establishment, it was resolved to hire a steam vessel, for a trip from the proposed station to Dublin, in order to give a *practical* proof of the advantages of this line. So jealous were the Liverpool merchants on this point, that there appears to have been some difficulty in engaging a suitable vessel. At length, however, this obstacle was surmounted, and the *Mountaineer* steam packet, of one hundred horse power, was hired for the voyage, for which the sum of 110*l.* was demanded and paid. On Sunday the 3rd of August, the packet got round the rock, and anchored in deep water at Dawpool, to which place a good number of people from Chester, and the neighbourhood repaired, anxious to procure a passage in this voyage of experiment, the fare from Chester to Dublin and back, being fixed at 1*l.* 5*s.* At twenty minutes before eight in the evening, the paddles were in motion, and the vessel proceeded majestically along the bosom of the lake on her way to Dublin. In an account subsequently published of the voyage, it is said, that the wind blew a heavy gale direct in the teeth of the ship, and continued to increase till near the completion of the passage. The packet arrived at Howth at half-past 2 p.m. on Monday; a chaise was then procured which reached the Dublin post-office at a quarter past three o'clock, and where the certificate of time, &c. was signed. The published account states, "Had there been moderate weather, it is the opinion of the experienced captain, that the newspapers would have been in Dublin post-office at *eight o'clock in the morning*, instead of a *quarter before three in the evening*, giving an additional advantage of nearly *seven hours* in favour of the Dawpool packet;" and it is added, "The violent state of the wind

was rather favourable to the experiment than otherwise, inasmuch as it proved, that with this great obstacle against it, the packet was enabled to deliver the London evening papers of Saturday in Dublin, *about four hours earlier than those by the way of Shrewsbury and Holyhead!*" The hospitality with which the warm-hearted citizens of Dublin treated our Cestrian voyagers was highly spoken of; and many respectable individuals are said to have hailed this passage of experiment as an earnest of an accelerated intercourse with England. Much, however, as they seemed enamoured with the projects, none came forward with their pecuniary offers to bring this embryo scheme into active existence. At six o'clock on Tuesday evening, the *Mountaineer* left Howth on its return, and, after a pleasant voyage, arrived at Gayton lane end at half past eight o'clock on Wednesday morning, completing the voyage home in about thirteen hours and a half, and passing over Chester bar in a gallant style, with some six or seven feet water under the vessel's keel. After this voyage, some vigorous attempts were made, *on paper*, to stimulate the public to raise the funds necessary for effecting a permanent establishment at Dawpool, but there does not appear to have been the slightest progress made towards that object. Chester is a place by no means distinguished for speculative enterprize; and for reasons already assigned, the scheme never could be expected to be a favourite with the *leviathans* of Liverpool. However, as there appear to be several circumstances favourable to the plan, it may possibly be taken up by our more spirited descendants, and the voyage of experiment may still remain as a permanent data, on which to found a future proceeding.—On the 30th of Sept. the coming of age of R. H. Barnston, son and heir of Col. Barnston, was celebrated in the city with lively demonstrations of attachment. A fine ox was on the preceding evening set down to roast on the Roodee, and on the day just mentioned, at about one o'clock, cut up and distributed to the populace, with 21 barrels of strong ale. Eighteen fine sheep were roasted at so many public houses, where the

friends of the family dined; a grand dinner was also given at the Albion Hotel; and in the evening, there was a splendid display of fire-works on the Roodee.

1824. This year furnishes but few local incidents worthy of notice, the first of which is the ascent of Mr. Sadler, in his balloon, from the esplanade in front of the castle. This took place on the 7th of June, and although these ærial excursions had become very general in different parts of the kingdom, yet an interval of 39 years had elapsed since a similar ascent had taken place in Chester. The balloon was inflated by leathern pipes from the gas works, at a very short distance, and a few minutes after six o'clock, the adventurous aeronaut ascended. The vehicle took a direction S. E. and after being borne aloft for little more than an hour, he gradually and without injury descended near Utkinton; from thence with the assistance of the country people he proceeded with his balloon to Tarporley, and returned the same evening to Chester. At the time when these ærial ascents were in their infancy, great expectations were held out that they might eventually be turned to some practical objects of advantage; but this hope having long since vanished, there can be no motive to justify any individual to tempt the dangerous element. A few months after his ascent from Chester, Mr. Sadler fell a victim to his own temerity, while engaged in a similar enterprize in Lancashire. —On the 28th of June, a most frightful accident occurred on the Dee, at the Lower Ferry, by which thirteen individuals lost their lives. A kind of regatta had been held on the above day, after which a considerable portion of the company had adjourned to the Ferry-house, where drinking and dancing were indulged in till a late hour. About eleven o'clock, the tide running with great impetuosity, a boat, containing about seventeen persons, pushed from the shore, with a view of crossing, and while on the way there was a struggle among some of the unfortunate men with the boys who had the management of the vessel, for the supremacy of the oars: in this they succeeded, but in their awkward attempts to evade the

power of the tide, they were driven with great violence, so as absolutely to stove in the side of the boat against the chain cable of the Thetis sloop lying in the river, which was waiting for her cargo, and the whole were instantly overwhelmed. Such exertions were made as the lateness of the hour, and the suddenness of the accident rendered available, but only four, chiefly boys, were saved. Among the victims were two fine young women, one of whom was attended by her lover; and it is a singular fact, they were found in one spot, as if determined that even in death they would not be divided; while their ill-fated companions were either lying far from them, or were swept away by the tide.—Sept. 2, the coach manufactory of Messrs. Parry & Truss, for the *fourth* time was burnt down, when the whole building with its valuable contents were entirely consumed: the fire was discovered at three o'clock in the morning, but its origin, like that of the preceding ones, could not be traced to any satisfactory cause. It was strongly suspected to be the work of an incendiary.

1825. At the spring assizes in this year, a cause was tried in the county court, which in its results went to establish the right of strangers to carry on business within the city, without being compelled to purchase their freedom. The action was brought by George Harrison, and John Larden, Esqrs. treasurers of the city of Chester, against Thomas Williams, tanner, for carrying on trade within the city, not being free, and sought to recover the penalty of 5*l.* for the same, being a breach of a bye-law of the corporation, by which they were empowered to exclude persons, not freemen, from trading. The cause broke down after the examination of four witnesses on behalf of the plaintiffs, who, without proceeding further, were non-suited. Since this decision, no attempt has been made to enforce the purchase of freedom, nor is it ever likely again to be attempted. It has always been held, and with much appearance of truth, that the exacting of large sums of money from strangers, previous to their entering into trade, has operated prejudicially to the

prosperity and interests of the city ; and if so, it is a subject of gratulation, that the practice has ceased to exist.—Early in June, a number of our *No Popery* citizens presented two fine cheeses, one to his royal highness the Duke of York, and the other to the Bishop of the diocese, for their determined opposition to the Catholic claims. The duke's present weighed 132lb. and the bishop's nearly as much, and were fine specimens of the staple commodity of the county.—The bill for erecting a new bridge over the Dee, repairing the old one, the removal of St. Bridget's church, and the erection of the new church, passed both houses of parliament in the month of June.—During this year, a new steam packet, called the *St. David*, plied between Chester and Bagtlt, for the conveyance of passengers and luggage. The vessel was built principally by tradesmen, and was held in shares ; Mr. Sarsfield, a lieutenant in the royal navy, was appointed to command her. This proved a seriously losing speculation to the proprietors, the receipts proving inadequate to meet the current charges. The packet, however, continued to be employed to its original purpose, and in occasional trips to Liverpool, Bangor, &c. until the month of December the following year, when the *saintly* vessel was brought to the hammer, to the no small loss of the speculating proprietors.

1826. In the spring of this year, the extreme depression of the silk trade in the towns of Macclesfield and Congleton, had thrown half the population into a state of absolute starvation, and so exhausted both parochial and individual funds, as to threaten most disastrous consequences. An appeal to the sympathies of the citizens of Chester being made on their behalf, a charitable ball was decided upon, of which the mayoress, Mrs. Fletcher, and several of the leading ladies in the city became patronesses. On the 4th of May this charitable assembly was held in the assembly-room at the town-hall, which was numerously attended and ably supported. Including donations of 100*l.* from the Earl and Countess of Grosvenor, and 50*l.* from Lord and Lady Belgrave, the proceeds

amounted to upwards of 540l; and that there might be no drawback from this emanation of public benevolence, liberal refreshments were furnished at the sole expence of Mr. Fletcher, the mayor, who was also at the charge of lighting the rooms, and defraying the demands of the musicians, of whom there was a most respectable orchestra. The money was remitted to the respective committees in Macclesfield and Congleton, and proved a seasonable relief.—In May, this year, the Chester water-works bill passed both houses of parliament.—A melancholy event, which appears to involve the crime of murder, but which has ever since continued to be wrapt in mystery, marked the conclusion of this year. Early on the morning of the 9th of December, the body of a young man of about twenty years of age, of the name of Thomas Reeves, who had occasionally been employed in different breweries, was discovered in that part of the canal nearly opposite the Phoenix Tower, and not more than about a yard from the shore on the towing path side. On the discovery of the body by some passengers, it was dragged out of the water, and conveyed to Mr. Musgrave's timber yard, where it was a few hours afterwards recognized by the distressed mother of the deceased, who on the first report of such an occurrence, and knowing that her son had not been at home during the night, repaired to the spot, when her fearful apprehensions were realized. The circumstance of a severe wound on the head, the tattered appearance of some parts of his apparel, and above all, the finding his hat upon the walls, at the distance of about eighty yards, from the place opposite to which he was found, near to the bottom of Abbey-street, naturally suggested a suspicion, that after a struggle with some murderous villains, from whom he had attempted to run away, he had been thrown over the parapet wall. At this precise place, the perpendicular height from which he must have been precipitated, to the bank of the canal, is from fifteen to sixteen yards, and his being found in the water may well be accounted for, from the certainty that in his fall he must have struck against a projecting rock,

which is about equi-distant between the top of the wall and the ground below, having first hit on the towing-path, and then rolled into the canal. In a close investigation by a coroner's inquest, nothing was elicited that could lead to any satisfactory conclusion as to the cause of the young man's death; but the testimony of one witness, independent of the circumstances above noted, strengthens the suspicion that his end was occasioned by violence: that witness deposed, that at the hour of half-past two on the same morning, while waiting at the door of Mr. Snape's brewery, he observed three men, under very suspicious circumstances, in very great haste, all coming in a direction from the place where the tragical occurrence is supposed to have taken place.—In the month of June, the citizens had another delectable treat in the shape of a contested election for members of parliament, in which Lord Belgrave and the Hon. Robert Grosvenor were the successful candidates. Some part of the proceedings were excessively turbulent, and upon one occasion it was found necessary to call in the aid of the military.

1827. The only incident worthy of recording during this year, was the laying the first stone of that stupendous edifice, the new bridge over the Dee. Of this ceremony the principal object of which will carry down to posterity the spirit and taste of the present age, though it has before been incidentally touched upon, I shall give a detailed account, as it may long remain a subject of interest to our descendants, while this great work of art shall hereafter be contemplated with admiration. At the request of the committee, the Right Hon. Earl Grosvenor was invited to lay the stone, and the 1st of October was the day fixed for the occasion. Soon after eleven o'clock all the schools and clubs of the city were assembled in the Abbey-square, and about half-past twelve Earl Grosvenor arrived at the Exchange, where the corporation were assembled to receive him. His lordship's approach was announced at the May-pole in Handbridge by the sound of the bugle, in answer to which the castle guns fired

nine rounds, and a detachment of the Royal Fusileers immediately took their station on the elevated ground on the opposite side of the river. The appearance of the military had a most imposing effect, and had the resemblance of a fixed wall. At two o'clock the procession began to move: the schools led the van, preceded by colours and bands of music, followed by the members of eighteen friendly societies, with their respective flags and banners; the corporation, in their habiliments; Mr. Trubshaw, the builder, and Mr. Hartley, the surveyor; the foreman of the works, carrying the trowel on a velvet cushion; the Earl Grosvenor, supported by W. W. Currie, Esq. chairman of the original committee, and the Rev. Prebendary Blomfield, followed by the committee of the commissioners; the whole attended by an immense concourse of people from the city and neighbourhood. While the ceremony was performing, repeated volleys were fired by the military, and from the great guns of the castle, under the direction of Capt. Henderson. The coffer-dam which was designated as the place for the stone, was approachable only by a platform of from fifteen to twenty yards from the shore, and the stone itself of the dimensions of 9 feet in length, and 3 feet 6 inches in breadth, was moved forward by a crane, on a tram-road of balks. On the stone being moved, Mr. Trubshaw placed the mortar on the foundation, and his lordship proceeded to spread it on the surface, giving the immense stone the usual three gentle taps. The silver trowel, which was tastefully executed by Mr. Lowe, goldsmith, and engraved by Mr. Dean, had the following inscription upon it:—"With this trowel was laid the first stone of the new bridge over the river Dee at Chester, by the Right Honourable Robert Earl Grosvenor, on the first of October, A.D. 1827, in the eighth year of the reign of his most gracious Majesty King George the Fourth, and in the mayoralty of Thomas Francis, Esquire.—Thomas Harrison, architect; James Trubshaw, builder; Jesse Hartley, surveyor; John Finchett-Maddock, clerk to the commissioners." Immediately after the ceremony, the

Rev. Prebendary Blomfield offered up the following dedicatory prayer :—“ Almighty God, the creator and designer of the world, and of all that is therein, we now presume to entreat thy blessing upon this undertaking. We acknowledge that except the Lord build the house, their labour is but lost that build it: look down, therefore, we beseech thee, with a favourable eye upon this beginning of our work. As thou hast given man the skill to design it, give him also the power to execute it, that it may stand to future ages the memorial of what great things man can do when the Lord's blessing is upon his undertakings: And, as whatever tends to the accommodation and comfort of thy creatures, contributes also to thy honour and glory, accept, we beseech thee, and approve our offering. As this first stone is laid in faith, let us humbly look for thy assistance towards the completion of that which is built thereon; and as this work of men's hands will join together those whom the water divides, let it be a token to us of that firm fellowship and christian charity, in which we should be united together, as the servants and children of one gracious Lord and Master; and may the glorious majesty of the Lord our God be upon us—prosper thou the work of our hands upon us; O prosper thou our handy-work, through Jesus Christ our Lord.” When the prayer was finished, Lord Grosvenor addressed the multitude and said, “After the excellent prayer which had been delivered, he should trouble that great assembly with but a few words—he sincerely hoped that the vast arch about to be raised on the stone he had just placed, would be as solid, firm, and permanent, as he had no doubt it would be beautiful and magnificent; he also prayed God that he would shower down his blessings on the undertaking, and particularly that no evil accident might befall any of the persons employed in the construction of it.” The following coins were now deposited in a cavity cut in the foundation stone :—a farthing, halfpenny, and penny; silver penny, twopenny, fourpenny, and sixpenny pieces; shilling, half-crown, and five-shilling pieces; a half-sovereign, and a sovereign.

On the plate which enclosed the coins was an inscription similar in substance to that engraved on the trowel. A salute of twelve guns was fired while the stone was laying, and three volleys by the Fusileers, which, with the sounds of soft music heard at intervals, and the shouts of the assembled multitude, reverberated along the winding banks of Deva, whilst the procession left the site. As it proceeded past the intended new church, the workmen mounted the walls of the rising edifice, and cheered most heartily; and on its way through Nicholas-street, Watergate-street, and Northgate-street, to the Exchange, his lordship and the whole of the procession were hailed with every demonstration of respect and attention—cheering, clapping of hands, and waving of handkerchiefs prevailed throughout the whole line of march. In Northgate-street, the head of the procession opened its columns, and the corporation and commissioners passed through into the Exchange, when the mayor took his seat on the bench, and presented to Lord Grosvenor the trowel—remarking, that he had no doubt his lordship would preserve it as a token of what had just occurred, as well as of the conspicuous part he had taken in laying the foundation of an erection, which would stand as a monument to future ages of the spirited conduct of the inhabitants of the city of Chester. His lordship briefly replied, that he received it with great pleasure, and should keep it not only as a token of what had transpired that day, but as a pledge of the union which subsisted between his house and the city of Chester, which it was his most anxious wish to maintain; and he assured his worship that no exertion should be wanting on his part to further the prosperity of the city of Chester. The festivities of the day were concluded by a splendid dinner at the Royal Hotel.

1828. The summer of this year was remarkable for storms of thunder, lightning, and rain. The first of these occurred on the 25th of June, when a good deal of injury was done in the city and neighbourhood by the electric fluid, and by the floods, which overflowed the low grounds, and did much mischief to the growing crops. But a still

more serious and destructive storm was witnessed on the 24th and 25th of July. During the former day and night, the rains were almost incessant, but on the latter, the descent was so tremendous in the city as to give it the appearance of one unbroken sheet of water. About noon a storm of hail came on, and such was its violence, that considerable damage was done by the demolition of glass. Our streets were literally impassable by reason of impetuous torrents with which they were inundated, and the market people compelled to seek shelter in the different rows. In the course of the afternoon, about fifteen yards of the city walls, situate between Abbey-street and the Phoenix Tower, fell down with a terrible crash, into Mr. Harrison's rope-walk, taking away not only the parapet wall, but the whole of the outside masonry work to that extent, and also the flags on the walking path nearly to half its breadth; the earth beneath having been completely excavated and washed away by the descending torrent. About the same time, and from a similar cause, a portion of Mr. Fletcher's garden wall, on the Parkgate road, shared the same fate. In the evening of Saturday, many of the half-drowned country people who attended our market, had serious obstacles to encounter in returning to their homes, the rising floods in several directions having intercepted their approach to them. At Bache Pool the turnpike road was overflowed to the depth of from three to four feet, and from the strength of the current, which carried away a great part of the wall in front of Mr. Hughes's mansion, the fording the water with a good cart or other carriage was no inconsiderable adventure. A still greater difficulty was opposed to the residents on the Sands, nearly the whole of that flat district being laid under water from below the sluice-house to the extent of what is termed the first *take-in*. On Sunday morning, however, this region presented a still more appalling appearance; at Blacon Point the water was from three to four feet deep, and the lower parts of the dwellings of the farmers were flooded, and it was ascertained by a gentleman who resided on the spot at the

time of the great flood in 1795 (the largest ever known) that on that day the waters were several inches higher than at the former period. Every attempt to secure any part of the agricultural produce was perfectly impracticable, nor was it a task of easy performance to save the lives of the cattle, in which it was necessary to employ a boat that had been drawn out of the Dee for the purpose. An immense quantity of hay and other produce were entirely spoiled or washed away. The freshes in the Dee were remarkably great; on the Sunday, a cock of hay, apparently in its original size and form, was seen floating down, upon the top of which were observed two leverets, which had no doubt taken refuge there to preserve themselves from the watery element, when some persons being on the spot in a boat, the little fugitives were rescued from their perilous situation.—On the 30th September, a fire broke out in the oil and drug warehouses of Mr. Thomas Bowers, situated in that section of the city bounded by the lower part of Northgate-street, Eastgate-street, and Werburgh's-street, and near to Pepper-alley. The warehouses were stored with drugs, oils, saltpetre, spirits of wine, turpentine, and other articles of a highly inflammable nature. The fire was discovered about four o'clock in the morning; and when the scene and extent of danger were ascertained, the strongest feeling of alarm and apprehension was created, as it was justly feared, the closeness of the surrounding buildings, the contiguity of another warehouse of a similar description, and the intensity of the flames, endangered the houses and property in the whole neighbourhood. The engines were soon upon the spot, but there being a short supply of water, their operation for some time was extremely inefficient. By six o'clock, the four upper rooms of the larger warehouse, and the whole of the smaller one, with their contents, appeared as one consolidated sheet of flame, sending up its spiral columns high above the surrounding buildings, and illuminating the atmosphere for a considerable distance. The back part of Mr. Bowers's dwelling-house was not more than three yards from the burning pile,

and Mr. Walker's adjoined it, against the lodging-rooms of both of which the flames played with great violence. Two window frames of the former gentleman were half burnt through, almost every pane of glass shivered to pieces, and the curtains of a bed near one of the windows, were once actually in a blaze. Before the roof fell in, the upper floors had successively given way, and the ground floor of the warehouses now sustained the burning mass of the interior of the building. Under these was a cellar, leading to which were a wooden staircase and stairs. In this cellar was deposited a great number of hogsheads of oil, and a quantity of turpentine, &c. &c. and it is easy to contemplate the horrid consequences, if these inflammable materials had been ignited, and added their influence to the already extended calamity. What renders the preservation of these from the flames extraordinary is, that the staircase and stairs were nearly consumed, and that some of the articles just mentioned, were within a yard of the burning materials: and in addition to this, the flooring of the cellars, which was also of wood had not taken fire. To the well-directed energies of the engines on this point of danger may be ascribed this extraordinary and favourable result. About seven o'clock the great object of confining the disaster within the walls of the building was happily accomplished; a part of the walls of the warehouses only remained standing; but all the other closely connected mass of buildings was placed in a state of safety. While the raging element was completing its work of destruction in the rear, and especially during the period of its threatening aspect, the front of Northgate-street presented a picture of desolation and ruin. The persons inhabiting houses and occupying shops contiguous to the fire, were anxiously employed in removing their stocks and furniture. Most of the neighbouring houses apart from the danger, were stowed with various articles; St. Peter's church-yard, the commercial buildings, the White Lion yard, and other vacant places were crowded with promiscuous heaps of goods of all descriptions, which, however, were safely guarded by

detachments of the 87th regiment. Before Mr. Bowers's family, or that of any others in the immediate vicinity were apprized of the calamity, the fire had acquired great power, and they were aroused from their slumbers only to behold the impending danger with which they were threatened. It is hardly necessary to say, that under such terrific appearances the first impulse was to secure the personal safety of each member of every family, particularly the children, the aged, and the infirm; and it is gratifying to say, that this was done without any serious accident, by removing them from the scene of calamity. Among this number, the most interesting instances were those of Mrs. Samuel Jones and Mrs. Podmore, close neighbours to Mr. Bowers, who had each lain-in but a few days, and who, with their little ones were carefully conveyed to friends' houses, with no other injury than the sudden fright. On inquiry into the origin of the fire, it appeared that Mr. Bowers's family had been washing on the preceding day. There was a boiler in the wash-house which stood immediately under the small warehouse, the latter, on the first floor, communicating with the large one, and the chimney of the boiler ran into the flue above. Although the fire was apparently extinguished on the evening, it seems that some timber in the flue had taken fire during the night, and thus communicated itself to other parts of the building. Mr. Bowers's property was insured, but not to the amount of the injury that was sustained. Some palpable defects in the state of the engines and the supply of water were obvious upon the above occasion,—facts that cannot be too severely censured. This occurrence, however, in connexion with another similar calamity of less magnitude which had happened a few days before, roused the inhabitants to a sense of the necessity of taking precautionary measures to meet with greater efficiency the recurrence of like accidents. A town's meeting was held, several excellent resolutions passed, and a committee appointed, by whom the number of fire-men were increased, a periodical inspection of the engines ordered, and arrangements made

for an ample supply of water. The necessity of a constant attention to these precautions cannot be too strongly impressed upon the police ; there is scarcely a town in the kingdom where old buildings are so closely huddled together as in the central parts of Chester—a circumstance which loudly calls for the greatest possible effectiveness in the engine-house department.

1829. On the 7th of March, an accident occurred at the officers' barracks adjoining the castle. On that day, Lient. L. W. Halstead, of the 87th Royal Irish Fusileers, rejoined his regiment then stationed here, after leave of absence for some months, and in the afternoon dined with his brother officers at the mess. In the course of the evening, he advanced to one of the windows, through which he fell into the castle field beneath, a height of about 16 yards, only just escaping the iron-spikes planted around the magazine. The accident is supposed to have occurred in consequence of his having mistaken the room for the one in which the officers messed when he was before in Chester, which was but for a short time, and to the windows of that room there was a terrace outside, guarded in front by iron pallisading. The officers had changed their mess-room during his absence ; to the windows of that room no terrace was attached, and being unacquainted with that circumstance, it is supposed that when he went through the window, he imagined himself perfectly safe. When taken up he was totally insensible, and much bruized ; the lower vertebræ of his back was dislocated and fractured, which paralyzed the lower extremities, and brought on a mortification. He lingered until the following Saturday morning, when he expired, and was interred with military honours in the cathedral, where a handsome monument is placed to his memory. He was in his 28th year, and had been eleven years in the regiment.—In the autumn of this year, we had another splendid Musical Festival, held in the broad aisle of our fine cathedral, for the benefit of the public charities, which, as usual, brought a vast concourse of gentry into the city. A new feature in this meeting was a fancy-dress

ball, held at the Royal Hotel, which, being a novel exhibition in Chester, commanded an immense company ; and it is probable that this species of amusement will hereafter form an appendage to our musical festivals.

1830. In public events or occurrences, this year presented nothing deserving of public record, if we omit the demise of King George the Fourth, which necessarily led to a new election of our city members. Lord Belgrave having offered himself as one of the county representatives, the new candidate for the city was Sir Philip de Malpas Grey Egerton, who was returned without opposition. This subject, however, belongs to another branch of our history, but is noticed for the purpose of observing, that this is the first instance in which an election for members has occurred since the year 1807, without a most determined contest.

*Chronological List of public Executions in Chester from the
16th century.*

- 1554.—George Marsh, burnt at Spital Boughton, for his attachment to the Protestant faith.
- 1588.—Sept. 8. A woman burnt at Boughton for poisoning her husband.
- 1589.—John Taylor, gaoler of the castle, for the murder of Mr. Hockenbulf, a prisoner in his custody for recusancy.
- 1592.—William Geaton, servant to the bishop of Chester, for the murder of James Findlove, a Scotch pedlar ; his body was hung in chains on Groppenhall heath.
- 1601.—A woman named Candey, executed for conspiring to murder her husband ; her paramour, Boon, refusing to plead, was pressed to death in the castle.
- 1602.—One Arnet, servant to a Mr. Manley, of Saltney side, hung for murdering his fellow-servant.
- 1654.—Sir Timothy Fetherstonhaugh, shot in the corn-market of Chester, by order of the parliament.
- 1750.—Two Irishmen executed, and gibbeted on the Parkgate road, near the two mills, for a murder.
- 1768.—Three men hung for burglary ; the rope of one of them broke, when lifting up his cap, he exclaimed in horrible agitation, " My God ! what am I to suffer ? "
- 1776.—May 4. Execution of James Knight, for a burglary at Odd Rode.—
Sept. 21. Christopher Lawless, Isaac Hutchinson, Alexander Solomon, and Isaac Josepha, executed for robbing the shop of Mr. Pemberton, jeweller. They were buried behind the Roodee-cop, opposite Overleigh.

- 1777.—April 10. S. Thorley, executed for the horrible murder of Ann Smith, a ballad-singer, near Congleton. After cutting off her head, he severed her legs and arms from her body, which he threw into a brook & part, however, he actually broiled and eat! He was hung in chains on the heath, near Congleton.
- 1779.—April 16. William Ellis for burglary, and William Loom, for discharging a loaded pistol at Charles Warren, of Congleton, executed at Boughton.—Oct. 2. Sarah Jones, executed for stealing 26 yards of shintz, from the shop of Mr. Meacock, Chester.
- 1783.—Resolution Heap, and Martha Brown; the former for a burglary at Whaley; the latter for a similar offence at Over.
- 1784.—April 26. Elizabeth Wood, hung for poisoning James Sinister, at Bredbury.—May 13. John Oakes, hung for coining.
- 1786.—April 24. Execution of Peter Steers, for the murder of his wife, by poison.—May 6. Edward Holt, for a burglary at Knutsford.—Oct. 1. Thomas Buckley, aged 20, for a burglary at Chester.—Oct. 7. Thomas Hyde, aged 35, for horse-stealing.—Oct. 10. James Buckley, aged 22, for a burglary in Miss Lloyd's house in Newgate-street, Chester.
- 1789.—Feb. 4. Thomas Mate, for the murder of John Parry, a constable, in Handbridge. He was 64 years old, and when at the gallows, he charged his wife, 70 years old, with infidelity.
- 1790.—John Dean, from Stockport, for the most brutal murder of his wife, who was seven months advanced in her pregnancy. He was hung in chains on Stockport moor.
- 1791.—April 21. Execution of Lowndes, for robbing the Warrington mail. His prosecution, it is said, cost £2000. He was hung in chains on Helsby-hill; but the gibbet pole was in a short time after cut down by some people in the neighbourhood, and was not again erected.—Oct. 8. Allen, Aston, and Knox, for a burglary at Northern. Upon this occasion, the fatal tree was removed from Gallows-hill to the opposite side of the road, where it continued until 1801, when the place of execution was finally removed within the walls of the city.
- 1796.—April 30. Thomas Brown and James Price, for robbing the Warrington mail. They were hung in chains on Trafford-green, and remained there till 1820, when the pole was taken down, the place having been previously inclosed. In the scull of Price was found a robin's nest.
- 1798.—John Thornhill, for the murder of his sweetheart, Sarah Malone, at Lymm.—Oct. 4. Peter Martin, alias Joseph Lowther, for firing at a boat's crew of the Actaon, in the Mersey, when employed on the impress service.
- 1800.—Thomas Bosworth, for forgery, and Alexander Morten, for felony.—Oct. 18. Mary Lloyd, for forgery at Stockport.
- 1801.—May 9. Thompson, Morgan, and Clare, for burglaries.—When near the gallows, Clare made a spring from the cart, rushed through the crowd, which made way for him, rolled down a gutter-way towards the Dee—a rapid descent—and plunged into the river. He was drowned, having immediately sunk, from the weight of his chains, but his body was found, and afterwards hung up with the others, the other two malefactors being kept in the cart in the interval. These were the last criminals hung at Boughton, which had been the place of execution for some

centuries.—Oct. 3. Aaron Gee and Thomas Gibson, hung out of a temporary window way, in the attics, on the south side of the old Northgate, a building not now in existence. The unfortunate men were propelled from the window about five feet, and dropped near forty inches, their bodies beating against the windows beneath, so as to break the glass in them.

1809.—May 6. Execution of George Glover and William Proudlove, in front of the house of correction, for shooting at an officer of excise at Odd Rode. When the drop (used for the first time) sunk, the ropes broke, and the poor men fell to the platform, half strangled; new ropes were procured, and the sentence was carried into effect about an hour after the accident.

1810.—May 2. Execution of John Done, for the murder of Betty Eckersley, a woman of bad character, at Lymm. He denied the offence to his last moment.—Oct. 10. Execution of Smith and Clarke, for a burglary and felony in the shop of Mr. Fletcher, watch-maker, Eastgate. The conduct of Smith on the drop was exceedingly unbending and audacious, and the night before his execution he played at cards with some of his companions. They were buried in St. Martin's church-yard.

1812.—June 15. Temple and Thompson for rioting. They were connected with the Luddites.—Aug. 24. Execution of John Lomas, for the murder of his master, Mr. Morrey, of Hankelow.

1813.—Edith Morrey, executed for the murder of her husband. She was tried with Lomas, and with him found guilty on the clearest testimony. Immediately after conviction she pleaded pregnancy, and a jury of matrons being impannelled, she was pronounced quick with child, and her sentence of course respited till after her delivery. It appeared that an illicit intercourse had for some time existed between her and Lomas, which led to her exciting him to destroy her husband, and the crime was perpetrated with circumstances of peculiarly savage atrocity.—June 26. Execution of William Wilkinson, James Yarwood, and William Burgess, for a rape on Mary Porter, near Weston Point. They were flat-men, and when Wilkinson (a fine stout man about six feet high) mounted the scaffold, he exclaimed to his companions, "Keep up your spirits; never mind, my lads—we are all murdered men; I'm just as happy as if as I was going to a play!" and when the halter was placed round his neck, he added, "My new handkerchief fits me nice and tight."

1814.—May 28. William Wilson, an old sailor, in his 70th year, executed for arson, at Tiverton, near Tarporley. His exit was most extraordinary: on the morning of his death he entertained a number of persons in the parlour of the constable's house, with an account of his naval exploits; and in his way along the streets to the city gaol, he chewed bread in his mouth, and threw it at the beadle, observing he was like Peeping Tom of Coventry. On the drop he said, "what a many people are here to see an old man hung; here's as much fuss as if there were a hundred to be hanged."

1815.—April 22. Execution of Griffith and Wood, for a burglary in the house of John Holme, near Stockport.

1817.—May 10. Execution of Joseph Allen, for uttering bank of England notes to a large amount. In a declaration made on the morning of his

execution, he said he had been wrongfully accused, and that he did not know good notes from bad ones. For six days after his condemnation, he took no other refreshment than water.

1818.—May 9. Abraham Rostern and Isaac Moors, the former for a burglary at Edgeley, the latter for a similar offence at Cheadle Bulkeley. Both of them acknowledged their guilt.—Sept. 26. John Moor, executed for a burglary.

1819.—May 8. Joseph Walker, for robbing his former master on the highway between Northwich and Manchester. He denied his guilt to the last.—Sept. 25. Samuel Hooley and John Johnson (a man of colour) for a burglary at Bowden,

1820.—April 15. Jacob M'Ghinnes, for shooting Mr. Birch, at Stockport. He was connected with the radical reformers, and his intention was to have shot Mr. Lloyd, then solicitor of that town, and now prothonotary of the county court. This unfortunate man had not only embraced the politics but the theology of Tom Paine, but during his confinement, and before his execution, he was brought to embrace the christian system, and died with great composure.—April 22. Thomas Miller, for a burglary at Bowden.—Sept. 16. Execution of Ralph Ellis, for a burglary at Elton, and William Ricklington, for setting fire to the rectory house at Coddington.

1821.—May 5. Execution of Samuel Healey, for a highway robbery at Stockport.

1822.—May 4. William Tongue for a rape on an infant, and George Groom for a highway robbery on a man named Joseph Kennerley.—Sept. 14. Thomas Brierley, for a highway robbery near Congleton.

1823.—April 14. Execution of Samuel Fallows, for the murder of his sweetheart, at Disley. Several galvanic experiments were made on his body previous to dissection.—May 20. Execution of John Kragon, for a rape on an infant at Stockport.—Sept. 13. Execution of Edward Clarke, for a highway robbery at Stockport.

1824.—April 21. Joseph Dale, for the murder of Mr. Wood, near Disley. He had been convicted at the preceding assizes, but execution deferred, in order to take the opinion of the judges on a point of law urged in his favour by Mr. D. F. Jones, his counsel. He died with great composure.

1826.—April 26. Philip M'Gowan, for the robbery of an inoffensive man, near Disley, and Abraham Stones, for the robbery of Mr. Marsden, a gentleman of upwards of seventy years of age, near Cowlane-bridge, under circumstances of great violence. On this melancholy occasion, the apparatus for executions, was removed from the east to the west end of the city gaol, where these melancholy spectacles have ever since been exhibited.—Aug. 26. John Green, for burglary.

1829.—May 9. John Proudlove, for highway robbery, and John Leir, for burglary in the house of the Rev. Matthew Bloor, attended with aggravated circumstances of violence.—Sept. 26. Joseph Woodhouse, for a rape on his own daughter; and Joseph Henshall, for firing at the keepers, while poaching in the grounds of the Earl of Stamford and Warrington.

The River Dee—Its Navigation.

THE Dee is only partially a Cheshire river. It rises in Merionethshire, runs through Bala Pool, skirts the counties of Denbigh and Flint, and becomes a boundary to Cheshire near Shocklach, and passing by Farndon to Aldford, has the county on both sides ; thence it runs on by Eaton and Eccleston to Chester. From Bangor bridge it is navigable for barges ; at Chester bridge, where it meets the tide-water, it is about 100 yards wide ; from thence it passes through an artificial channel along the marshes to the estuary, the latter spreading over an extent of sands, in some parts seven miles in width. The Dee empties itself into the sea much nearer to the Flintshire than to the Cheshire shore, and not far from the Point of Air.

All our ancient authors, who have written on the city of Chester, have attached high importance to the Dee, as affording the greatest facility to its trade and commerce, and as the primitive source of its greatness and renown. In celebrating this river, Webb, in King's Vale Royal, passes the following eulogium :—"To which water no man can now express how much this antient city hath been beholden ; nay (I suppose) if I should call it the mother, the nurse, the maintainer, the advancer and preserver thereof, I should not greatly err ; for the same river, after that it approacheth the county of Chester, and receives some waters on either side, which makes it take the more state upon it, and to rouse up itself to prepare for meeting with the sea ; in which respect, our writers say of it, that it rather rusheth than runneth out of Wales into Chester, and then addresseth itself to the said meeting ; even there, where the sea hath determined

that creek which shoots in between Flintshire and the west side of Wirral hundred, was founded that beautiful city, and made the receptacle of merchandize from all kingdoms and nations, who traded into the British or Irish ocean, and became the very key or inlet, whereby not only the Romans, in their time, made their passage to and from Ireland, and the other western and northern islands ; but all other kings and princes, ever since, upon all needful occasions."

That the Dee was navigable for vessels of great burden from the sea up to Chester in very ancient times, is beyond all doubt ; and it is equally certain, that early in the 14th century, the navigation had been materially impeded by the shifting of the sands. The first notice we have of the latter circumstance is contained in letters patent of Richard II. who releaseth to the citizens 73*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.* parcel of the 100*l.* for the fee-farm reserved by the charter of Edward I. which the city was in arrears ; in which also is assigned, as the reason of this indulgence, *the ruinous estate of the city, and of the haven.* Henry VI. in confirming all the former charters of the city, recites " what great concourse in times past, as well by strangers as others, has been made with merchandize into this city, *by reason of the goodness of the port thereof,* and also what great trading for victuals into and out of Wales to the great profit of the city ;" and then shows, "*how the same port of Chester was lamentably decayed,* by reason of the abundance of sands which had choaked the creek ; and for these considerations released to the city 10*l.* of the fee-farm reserved by Edward I." The same reason is adduced by Henry VII. in his great charter to the city for reducing the fee-farm from 100*l.* to 20*l.* *

* This fee-farm rent, or royalty, was reserved in the crown uninterruptedly from Edward I. to Henry VII. except that upon one occasion it was granted to the Earl of Arundel for his life. The grant was subsequently sold by the crown, under an act of parliament, to Charles Lord Gerard ; it descended to the family of the Mordaunts, of whom it was purchased in 1728, by Sir Richard Grosvenor, whose descendant, the present Earl, still holds it. This fee-farm rent of £20 was annually paid to his lordship by the sheriffs of the city. Some few years ago, upon one occasion, the sheriffs demurred to

An author who wrote early in the seventeenth century, has not only stated the facts as related above, but has also left us his speculations on the causes of the obstruction of our river, in the following quotation :—" The mouth or opening of this river into the sea lies very bleak upon the north-eastern, western, and south-western winds ; and the ground or bottom of the creek is altogether of a loose, light, white, skittering sand, which, upon any powerful drift of wind or water, will give place like drifts of snow, and when a strong wind, at low water, hath opened a gap never so little in one of the huge banks or bars of sands, which have long gathered and increased to be, as one would think very firm and strong, the next tide-water violently rushing into that gap, and the wind continuing for many tides together to add more and more strength to that violence, the channel that was the main passage before will now rake up, as forsaken by the great stream, and the other new made will more and more prevail, until the like vicissitude happen the other way. From whence it is, that these mighty heaps of sand, by continuance of time, brought by fierce and strong winds up into the narrowness of the creek, for which there is no return back again, neither wind nor water being able to recoil them ; that the haven which in time past received ships of great burthen up to the city skirts, scarce now hath sea-room for little barques, which only at high-water do bring in their unladings of great vessels from the keys and stations which can receive them, five, six, or ten miles off. And hence it is, that even within these few years there have been such losses and gainings between the shores of Cheshire and Flintshire, near unto this city, that if I should estimate the same according to my own judgment, I should scarcely be believed of such as do not behold them with their eyes."

The detriment to the city, arising from the obstruction of the navigation, was seriously felt ; and it was not

the claim, whose scruples, however, were soon removed, by the satisfactory evidences adduced on the part of his lordship. But from some years past, the annual payment of this sum has been made by the corporation instead of the sheriffs.

till about the middle of the 16th century that even a partial remedy to the evil was attempted. About that period, a new quay or haven was erected on the Cheshire shore near Neston, about eight miles from the city, which gave rise to the assemblage of houses called Parkgate, built on the shore beneath that town. In the Harleian MSS. (No. 2082) is a letter from the citizens of Chester to the lord treasurer (the Marquis of Winchester) praying his intercession with the king for a sum of money in aid of their new haven or quay in Wirral, then building all of stone, "in the face and belly of the sea, which would at least cost 5000*l.* or 6000*l.*" In 1560 a collection for the new haven at Chester, was made in all churches throughout the kingdom; and in 1567 there was an assessment for the same purpose on the city. The new haven was at length completed, and for many years, all goods and merchandizes coming to, and going from the port of Chester, were there loaded and unloaded.

The credit of the first suggestion for recovering the navigation of the river, has invariably been given by all our historians to a Mr. And. Yarranton, a gentleman extremely conversant in the commercial advantages of this island, who published a work in which the subject is investigated, in 1677;* and if the question be referred to any *definite* project, I am quite willing to concede the point in his favour. In the mean time, I beg to observe, that the practicability and the desirableness of such a scheme

* The title of this curious book is, "England's Improvement by Sea and Land; to out-do the Dutch without fighting, to pay debts without money, to set at work all the Poor of England with the growth of their own lands," &c. In an address to the reader, appended at the *end* of his work, Mr. Yarranton thus recites his qualifications for his undertaking:—"I was an apprentice to a linnen-draper, when this king (Charles II.) was born, and continued at the trade some years; but the shop being too narrow and short for my large mind, I took leave of my master, but said nothing. Then I lived a countrey-life for some years, and in the late wars I was a soldier, and sometimes had the honour and misfortune to lodg and dislodg an army. In the year one thousand six hundred and fifty-two, I entred upon iron-works, and pli'd them several years, and in them times I made it my business to survey the three great rivers of England, and some small ones, and made two navigable, and a third almost completed."

was intimated more than fifty years before Yarranton's book made its appearance, by the respectable author I have before quoted, a native citizen, Mr. Webb. At all events, the *modesty* and *humility* with which this author introduces his sentiments on the feasibility of restoring the navigation, will not operate to his disadvantage with the candid reader. But I will quote his words :—

“Two things, one of greater, and one of lesser consequence here offer themselves, wherein, if I, silly wretch, the meanest of a thousand, may shew my desire, it may be, I hope, pardonable ; and if no notice be taken thereof, it shall not to the reader be much troublesome. The first is, that men of place, judgment and skill, would but a little in their wisdom consider, whether the matter were not as easy, or as likely, as some artists and experienced wits seem to give out, that this haven might be won again to as much advantage of trade or traffick to this city, as ever it was ; and that with no great ado, in comparison with those great atchievements which have been effected in the havens of Dover, Plymouth, Harwich, and Yarmouth, this being but the turning of a brook to any of them. And so to the augmentation of his majesty's customs, the honour of the whole kingdom, and especially to the advancement of the prince's highness, this his most renowned and famous earldom of Chester : the particular inducements to which motion, I dare not adventure to open, till better occasions do incite thereunto.—The other is, that the said greater matter of renewing the Haven, lying as it doth asleep, and not soon to be hoped to be effected, the worthy citizens of this time would take into their consideration how easily and to good purpose, they may even now provide a better key and dock for entertainment of such vessels as can come up the water to the city, and may do it now, with the gaining clear of a most fine circuit of firm land, to be added to that Rood-eye they have already, without prejudice of any place or person, and without stepping one foot out of their own liberties.”

This is the first suggestion I am acquainted with for restoring the navigation, although it must be allowed there is no specific mode pointed out by which the improvement might be effected. The project, however, seems to have slept until the appearance of Mr. Yarranton's book in 1677, which certainly roused the public attention to the scheme, although it was more than thirty years afterwards before it began to be acted upon. This work is now very scarce, but having, through the kindness of a gentleman of this city, obtained the loan of it, I shall here transcribe what the author has said in relation to the Dee, which, to say the least of it, is curious, if not important.

“Now I must make a step to Westchester, and endeavour to find out how the river Dee may be made so navigable to Bangor-bridge, that thereby it may be made communicable with the river Severne. In the month of July, 1674, I was prevailed with by a person of honour to survey the river Dee, running by the city of Chester to the Irish sea, and finding the river choked with the sands that a vessel of twenty tons could not come to that noble city, and the ships forc'd to lye at *Nelson*, in a very bad harbour, whereby the ships receive much damage, and trade made so uncertain and chargeable, that the trade of Chester is much decayed, and gone to *Liverpool*; and that old great city in danger of being ruin'd, if the river Dee be not made navigable by act of parliament, and ships brought to the city. I have formerly drawn a map of the new river to be made to bring up the ships to the city side, which map was presented to the Duke of York, by the Lord Windsor and Colonel Warden, and therein the reasons are inserted, how it may be done, and the advantage it will be to trade, and the city also. The map is now at Chester in the keeping of the mayor. His highness the Duke of York was pleased to promise the recommending of it to the parliament, for the making it navigable. And if it were made to Chester navigable by a new cut, as in the map prescribed, there would be three thousand acres of land gained out of the sea, and

made rich land, besides the coles from Aston will be brought to the city of Chester by water, which now are brought by land, and all goods and other things carried and recarried from England to Ireland, and from Ireland into England, with much less charge than now it is. And Dee being made navigable to Bangor-bridge will be a means to make the river Severne helpful to convey all goods to London, by sending it down the river Severne, and up the river Avon, and so down the Thames to London; whereby much moneys will be saved, and trade advanced. The river Dee must be taken up with a very strong wear over against the Water-gate of the city of Chester, and so the river Dee must be carried in a large cut or trench, through the lands below Alderman Wright's house,* along the sands, as far as Flint castle, and then dropt by a large cut into the deep water below the Brew-house.† There must also be a cut drawn along the Welsh shore, and so from Aston pits, and dropt into the main trench, thereby the waste water that comes from the hills and mountains will be voided, and the coles that are now carried by land to Chester will then be carried by water, and at least 1000*l.* per annum saved in carriage. This trench must be very large, that two ships may sail one by the other, and the sea-banks must be made very firm and strong, not upright, but very much sloaping. There must also be made five very strong locks and sluices of stone, which is there very necessary, at the end of the trench. This will be done for 15,000*l.* The river Dee being let down upon a sudden through the great trench, will cause the sands to fly, and deepen the channel, and thereby make the harbour safe, and help to open and deepen the bar. But it must be done when the tide is going out, and when the wind bloweth hard at east, with a strong fresh of water coming off the mountains."

To this project is appended a plan of the new channel. Future times had the advantage of his inventive

* Brewer's-hall.

† A building on the Cheshire shore near Neston.

genius—though a long interval succeeded before the scheme was carried into effect. It may be observed, that Mr. Yarranton's scheme, and that which has been adopted, are pretty nearly the same, with the omission of the locks, and with this difference also, that Mr. Yarranton's cut was to terminate opposite to Flint, while the present one opens opposite to Wepre, nearer to Chester.

In 1693, Evan Jones brought forward a proposal for making the river Dee navigable, and bringing up ships of a hundred tons burthen to the Roodee, at his own expence, on condition that he should have all such lands as should be recovered, upon payment of the usual rent of recovered lands to the crown, and one fourth of the clear rents or profits to the companies of the city, and that he and his heirs should be entitled to certain duties on coals, lime and lime-stone. This proposal was rejected, on account of the required duty on coals, lime, &c. In 1698, Francis Gell, Esq. made a proposal to the body corporate, nearly similar to that of Evan Jones, with some modification of the duties on coals, &c. and additional security as to the performance of the contract, but without any allotment of a fourth part to the city companies. This proposal was also in the first instance rejected; but upon being a second time brought forward, and a still further security being proposed by Mr. Gell, who offered to deposit the sum of 1000*l.* in the hands of trustees for that purpose, it was agreed to by the corporation on the 16th of October, 1698; a petition was in consequence presented to parliament, and in 1690 an act passed, the preamble of which recited, "that the said river Dee was thentofore navigable for ships and vessels of a considerable burthen from the sea to the city of Chester, but by neglect of the said river, and for want of sufficient banks, works, and fences on the sides thereof, against the flux and reflux of the sea, the channel of the said river was become so various and uncertain, that, by sands and otherwise, the navigation to the said city was almost lost and destroyed; the mayor and citizens of the said city of Chester, and their successors were empowered to make

the said river navigable from the sea to the said city of Chester, for ships of one hundred tons or upwards, and to enable them to do so, certain duties in the said act mentioned were laid upon coals, lime, and lime-stone, brought to and unloaded within the liberties of the said city, for the term of twenty-one years, and the property of the sands, soil, and ground therein mentioned, was immediately, from and after such time as the said river and channel should be made navigable and passable with and for such ships and vessels to and from the said city of Chester, to be vested in the said mayor and citizens, and their successors for ever," &c.

It appears, that this attempt for restoring the navigation, undertaken by the *mayor and citizens* entirely failed in its object; for after expending considerable sums, the scheme was entirely abandoned. From this period, the undertaking slumbered for about thirty years, when it was again revived under more favourable auspices, and with better success. Nathaniel Kinderley, supported by a number of spirited gentlemen, made a survey of the estuary; and declaring for the practicability of restoring the navigation, and rendering it a speculation of profit to the undertakers, provided they should receive certain dues of tonnage, and the profits of the lands to be recovered from the sea, an application was made to parliament for an act, which was obtained in the year 1732, in which these demands were conceded. This act stipulates, that there shall be 16 feet water in every part of the river at a moderate spring tide; and also enacts, that if, when the navigation is completed, it shall be proved that vessels laden with cheese drawing 14 feet water cannot safely pass down the river, Mr. Kinderley, or his assigns shall within twelve months, after notice of this fact given, at their own cost and charges, make a wet dock or basin, capable of holding twenty ships at least, within two miles of the lower parts of the works of navigation; in case of neglect or refusal, the commissioners may order others to do it, and reimburse themselves from the tonnage dues.

The first sod of the navigation was cut on the 20th of April, 1733, by Mr. R. Manley, and the water of the old channel was turned into that of the new in April, 1737. The channel of the river is confined by strong embankments extending about seven miles from Chester seaward, and beyond these by a large stone causeway of about a mile and a half in length from the lower end of the river embankment. This causeway is composed of an immense body of rough stone, at a cost of not less than 8*l.* for every yard of it in length. Vessels of from 250 to 300 tons may now come up to the city with the greatest safety.

In the 14th of Geo. II. (1740) another act was obtained, by which the undertakers were erected into a corporation by the name of "The company of proprietors of the undertaking for recovering and preserving the navigation of the river Dee." In 1736, the joint stock of the undertakers, amounted to 40,000*l.* divided into 400 shares of 100*l.* each; it was subsequently raised to 52,000*l.* and now amounts to 81,000*l.*

In the 17th of Geo. II. (1743) a third act passed, lowering the rates of tonnage, particularly those of cheese-vessels, from 6*d.* to 2*d.* per ton; the required depth of water in the channel reduced from 16 to 15 feet from the sea to Wilcoxon Point;* the provision for two ferry-boats over the river made more intelligible;* as well as that relative to the roads from the said ferries to Chester,

* This point is situated near the ship-building yard, and opposite the old lime-kiln, which formerly stood on the Roodee.

* By the act of 6 Geo. II. the passage across the river for passengers on horseback, or for carts or carriages, could only be demanded of the ferry boats, when the river was so deep as that at low water the river was not fordable, a clause so indefinite in its nature as to give rise to constant disputes. To remedy these, it was provided by the act of 17 Geo. II. "that two ferry-boats shall at all times be constantly kept by the company at their own proper costs and charges, with proper and sufficient attendants, and all good, substantial, and effectual ropes, tackle, and necessaries proper thereunto; and that the person or persons attending such boats, shall ferry over all such passengers in the said boats at all times when required thereto, without being paid any thing for the same."

and to Shotwick and Saughall, which are to be kept in repair by the company. The act also directs, that two supervisors shall be appointed, one by the company and the other by the corporation, whose duty is to take soundings, and report the depth of water to the commissioners; and it is also directed, that if there be less than 15 foot of water in every part of the river at a moderate spring-tide, according to the standard then in being,* from the sea to Wilcox-point, notice thereof is to be given to the company's agent; and if it continue for four months unremedied, tonnage duties to cease, till the depth be obtained; and if for the space of eight months after the four months, the commissioners are authorised to enter into and upon the white sands, lands, grounds, &c. and receive the rents and profits thereof, until they obtain a sum that will enable them to regain the said depth of water, with all the requisite charges, &c.

By a fourth act of 26 Geo. II. (1752) the company are directed to pay 200*l.* annually for ever to Sir John Glynne, his heirs, &c. and other freeholders of the parish of Hawarden, for the waste lands, commons, and salt-marshes on the north side of the new channel.

Having now disposed of the various acts of parliament relative to the company, I proceed to remark, that the first embankment to inclose land, was formed in a straight line beginning at a point of the river immediately opposite to Sandycroft mark, and ending on a point on the Cheshire shore about midway between the two Saughalls. This embankment was destroyed by a high tide, and abandoned in the year 1749. Of the subsequent exertions of the company in the recovery of land from the

* The standard, by which a moderate spring tide was to be determined, has long been destroyed; its existence is not remembered by the oldest inhabitant. All that is known of it is, that it was put up in 1738, and that it was standing in 1743, allusion being made to it in the act passed in that year. It is also referred to in the late Mr. William Griffith's book of soundings, as late as the month of February, 1776.

sea, the following statement may be depended upon as accurate :—

In 1754.....	were inclosed	1411 acres.
In 1763		664
In 1769		348
In 1790		1090
In 1826		471
Total.....		3984

[The land between the line of the old channel of the river and the Cheshire shore belonging to adjoining land-owners, is included in these quantities.*]

In the early part of this great undertaking, many individuals were seriously injured, and some probably entirely ruined. This is a result of no uncommon occurrence in extensive projects. Embarking the whole, or the greater part of their property in speculative schemes, in which innumerable contingencies are involved, in expectation of speedy and abundant remuneration, thousands of individuals suffer the bitterest disappointment from a total failure of their project, or what is equally ruinous to them, from extreme delay of dividends. From the latter cause, numbers of the original subscribers to the Dee navigation suffered severe losses, some forfeiting the whole of their subscriptions, rather than meet the calls for further advances, and others disposing of their shares at an immense loss. By these defections and transfers, the concern fell into wealthier hands, and the company is now considered to be in a flourishing condition. This, however, must be considered as referring rather prospectively to the income of the company, than to the profits already derived from the capital. The following statement will illustrate this observation :—

The first dividend of 2 per cent. began in 1775, and ceased in 1781 ; in 1789, a dividend of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. was paid, and was gradually increased to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in 1814,

* In consequence of the works of the navigation, between three and four thousand acres of land have been inclosed from the sea by the land and freeholders of the adjoining parishes on the Flintshire side of the new channel of the river.

but has since declined to 4 per cent. So that in 99 years, from 1732 to 1831, there have been fifty years without any dividend at all being paid; and for the forty-nine years that dividends have been paid, they have not averaged more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. (not reckoning the loss of interest in the *fifty years*) and the dividend now (1831) is only 4 per cent.

By the act of 6 Geo. II. the qualification of commissioners required each to be seized of an estate of freehold lands, tenements, or hereditaments of the value of 100*l.* per annum; which by a subsequent act was raised to 200*l.* the mayor, recorder, and aldermen of the city of Chester, being commissioners by virtue of their offices; the annual meeting of the commissioners directed to be held at the shire hall, on the first of August. It is a notorious fact, that for a long series of years after the completion of the navigation, the corporation were guilty of the greatest apathy and palpable neglect of their duties. By the act 17 Geo. II. it is directed that the mayor, aldermen, and common council of the city of Chester, and the company shall each respectively appoint a supervisor, and in case of death or removal, the vacancy to be supplied within a month; “And in case the said mayor, aldermen, and common council of the said city of Chester, or the said company respectively, shall be guilty of any neglect in the premises, *they shall for every year they shall not have a supervisor appointed, sworn, and enrolled, as aforesaid, respectively forfeit the sum of five pounds.*” Notwithstanding this penalty, and the calls of duty to protect the interests of the city, it does not appear that the corporation appointed a supervisor at all until the year 1799, a period of fifty-six years from the passing of the act. If the whole penalties for this neglect had been enforced, they would have amounted to 14,560*l.*!—Soon after the commencement of the present century, a feeling of interest began to be shewn by some of the resident commissioners, who it appears made a representation to the company on the subject of the bad state of the navi-

gation. On the 26th of June, 1805, the company agreed to a survey of the river; for which important purpose Mr. Dudley Clarke, and Mr. Charles Wedge, two eminent engineers, were appointed. On the 8th of November, in the same year, at an adjourned meeting of commissioners, on which occasion the late Sir R. Glynne, Bart. was chairman, these gentlemen made their report, in which they said, "The standard has been destroyed, and a new standard has within these five years been erected, the accuracy of which has been much doubted." They reported also, that the new standard was one foot seven inches too high, and that when it appeared by that standard that the water was nine feet deep from a certain fixed point, it was in reality only seven feet five inches deep.

Since the period I am now speaking of, and especially within the last half dozen years, the annual meetings of the commissioners have been numerously attended, and strenuous exertions made to urge the river Dee company to increased efforts in giving the required depth to the navigation.* What has given a still greater interest to these meetings, was the avowed purpose of the Flintshire land-owners to open a communication between that county and the town of Liverpool, by the lower ferry, by which the circuitous route through Chester would be rendered unnecessary, and the increased tolls arising from the erection of the new bridge avoided. It was more than surmized, in the first instance, that a bridge across the Dee at the lower ferry, was contemplated, to facilitate this object. This project met with the most vigorous opposition from the resident commissioners, as injurious

* It may be stated, as the principal cause of the bad state of the navigation before 1800, that from forty to fifty years ago, the company made an injudicious compliance with the solicitation of the citizens of Chester in lowering and shortening the groins laid on the south side of the river. This solicitation originated from the circumstance that two vessels, one belonging to the late Mr. merchant Rogers, and the other to Mr. Starkie Broadhurst, having accidentally got upon the groins in coming up the river, by which they received considerable damage. In consequence of this complaint, the groins were neglected, by which the low water channel of the river was widened, and the company were again obliged to have recourse to their enlargement, so as to contract the channel, and thereby to increase its depth.

to the navigation of the river, and inimical to the interests of the city, and it appears to have been finally abandoned. In the session, however, of 1829, our Flintshire neighbours obtained an act for making new turnpike roads from the towns of Flint and Mold to the lower ferry, and from thence, on the Cheshire side of the Dee, to the Chester and Parkgate-road, to join the latter at Woodbank-lane. Attempts have also been made to increase the facilities of the ferry for the conveyance of carriages across the Dee; but as these can only be taken over at a particular state of the tide and weather, and when the current is moderate, it can hardly be expected that this route will ever be adopted as the general line for travelling.

But to return to the transactions between the commissioners and the Dee company. At all the various meetings of the commissioners, the constant subject of complaint was, that the river was not of the depth required by act of parliament, and that the interests of the city of Chester were thereby seriously injured in its trade. It must be allowed indeed, that the former complaint has been uniformly well-founded, as appears from all the reports of the supervisors, according to their assumed height of a moderate spring tide. As a fair specimen of the general tenor of these reports, the following is the statement of one of the supervisors as the depth of the channel at high water in the shallowest part of the river, at the subsequent periods :—

<i>Time.</i>	<i>Water in the Dee.</i>		<i>Rise in the Mersey.</i>	
1830 February 22	13ft.	4in.	17ft.	5in.
April 9	12	6½	17	5
May 8.....	11	7	17	1
July 9.....	14	6	17	5
September 18.....	14	2	17	1
October 18.....	12	11	16	9
December 9	14	1	16	10
1831 February 25	15	0	16	7
March 27	16	0	17	2

This ratio of the present depth of the river, I have said, may be taken as the average, at a moderate spring tide, in the shallowest part, by which the reader may

perceive the exact difference between the actual and the required depth.* It appears the commissioners deemed

* A writer of great scientific attainments, a few years ago, published some important observations on the vague and indeterminate meaning of that clause of the act which requires a certain depth of water in the river, and of the uncertain criterion by which that depth is to be ascertained. These remarks are so cogent and conclusive, and sustained by such unquestionable data, that I think no apology necessary for introducing the following extract. Speaking of the act, the author says, "The first thing in the act deserving notice, is, the condition, 'That at a moderate spring tide, as marked on the standard (which is destroyed), there shall be fifteen feet of water : ' it is an acknowledged fact, that the heights of the tides are not the same at the same periods of any two years, nor is there a coincidence in any two lunations ; as a recurrence of the same circumstances of the sun and moon (which are the chief cause of the tides) never happens at any period. As this doctrine militates against the general opinion, that at every new and full moon the tides are the same, I have, for proof collected the following table, from the Liverpool Tide-table, of the heights of the spring tides in the river Mersey, which are considered nearly simultaneous and similar to the Dee, for twenty years, distinguishing those of new from those of full moon ; the same likewise for the two subsequent days, from which a monthly and annual average is deduced below.

The heights of Spring Tides at New and Full Moons, and the two following days, for 20 successive years in the respective months, are as follow :

	New Moon.						Full Moon.					
	New.	1st day.	2nd day.	Mean.			Full.	1st day.	2nd day.	Mean.		
January ..	16 6	17 5	17 6	17 2			17 1	18 2	18 7	17 11		
February ..	16 8	17 9	18 3	17 7			17 6	18 7	19 2	18 9		
March	17 7	18 6	18 11	18 4			18 2	19 2	19 6	18 11		
April.....	18 3	18 10	19 1	18 7			18 6	19 2	19 1	18 11		
May.....	17 9	18 3	18 4	18 1			17 8	17 1	17 6	17 8		
June.....	16 10	17 2	17 3	17 1			16 7	16 10	16 10	16 9		
July.....	15 5	15 9	16 2	15 9			16 2	17 0	17 4	16 10		
August	16 1	17 1	17 9	17 0			16 3	17 9	18 3	17 5		
September..	16 10	18 0	17 6	17 9			17 3	18 3	18 8	18 1		
October	18 2	18 10	19 1	18 8			17 11	18 7	18 2	18 3		
November..	18 6	18 8	18 6	18 7			18 2	17 10	17 3	17 9		
December ..	17 6	18 8	18 1	18 1			17 3	17 6	17 4	17 4		
Average....	17 2	17 11	18 1				17 4	18 1	18 2			
General Mean.....	17 9						17 10					

"From these it plainly appears there is a difference in the different months, as well as on the respective days (consentaneous to calculation and natural causes); the question then is (the standard being gone), which of these tides is a "moderate spring tide," to determine the depth of the river, and perhaps the possession of the company's property? The question is sufficiently perplexing even with these aggregate data ; if separate tides are to be considered, the subject is involved in far greater difficulty. For further illustration of this dilemma, compare the heights of one month only, for a number of years, and the indefinite condition of "a moderate spring tide" will be manifest.

the difference so great as to justify them in proceeding against the company, and accordingly early in the year 1828, a resolution was passed that legal measures should be taken to compel them to a fulfilment of their engagements. All the preliminary steps were taken to bring the question to an issue, up to the stage when it became necessary to publish the notice in the London Gazette; and a gentleman in London had authority to see that commission executed. But a day or two before the important hour arrived, instructions were received from the committee of the commissioners to withhold the neces-

“ The height of the Tides on the day of New and Full Moon in September of the following years, was :—

	<i>New.</i>		<i>Full.</i>			<i>New.</i>		<i>Full.</i>	
In 1771	.....18	8.....	15	5	In 1781	.....16	4.....	15	8
1772	.....17	8.....	16	0	1782	.....16	7.....	17	4
1773	.....17	8.....	18	6	1783	.....14	9.....	17	7
1774	.....16	0.....	18	4	1784	.....14	4.....	18	2
1775	.....15	4.....	19	3	1785	.....15	9.....	18	11
1776	.....15	7.....	19	6	1786	.....16	6.....	18	1
1777	.....16	3.....	18	5	1787	.....18	2.....	16	5
1778	.....17	7.....	15	10	1788	.....19	7.....	16	2
1779	.....18	9.....	16	1	1789	.....17	7.....	15	10
1780	.....17	1.....	15	4	1790	.....17	7.....	16	9

This shews that the heights vary from 14 4 to 19 7, making a difference of 5 feet 3 inches in the same month; and creating a difficulty of determination not generally apprehended, or easily surmounted; to add to the embarrassments already pointed out, the act furnishes another of considerable moment, that of taking the depths at THREE SUCCESSIVE TIDES; in the first place, it does not specify at what periods of the year, or of the tides, the examination shall be had; nor whether the three successive tides are to be two day and one night, or two night and one day's tide, one of which, according to the stipulation, must eventually be selected; in the next, it is not said whether all the three shall satisfy the standard, or a mean of them be the criterion of the depth: it is probable that the latter is the proper construction of the act, and that the three successive tides after the syzygie, or new and full moon, are to be selected for the determination, because they are generally considered the principal ones of the springs: but the knot is still untied, the mean of two nights, and one day-tide at particular periods of the year, and circumstances of the moon, will be very different from the mean of two day and one night tide taken at the same springs. An example promiscuously taken from many hundred observations, will explain the argument: at a full moon in September, the two day and intermediate night tides were, 16 4—17 8—17 8; mean 17 3: on the same days the two nights and one day were 17 8—17 8—19 4, mean 18 2, difference one foot; consequently, if the standard be supposed 18 feet, the first would be deficient 10 inches, the latter two inches in excess, and so in many other instances.”

sary publication, which being entirely omitted, the whole proceedings fell to the ground. This extraordinary measure created much dissatisfaction in some, and surprize in all, and never received that satisfactory explanation its importance demanded. It has been stated, however, that this abandonment of proceedings was dictated by a wish to conciliate the company, who, it was apprehended, if pushed to extremities, might be disposed to lend their imposing influence to the project of the Flintshire landowners in throwing a bridge over the Dee at the lower ferry, an object then thought to be in agitation, and which, if carried into effect, would have been extremely injurious to Chester, as a thoroughfare between the principality and the town of Liverpool. There is also strong reasons for believing, that other members of the committee expressed a conviction, that the company had not only done every thing which they could do to improve the navigation of the river under Mr. Telford's directions, but that they were well disposed to follow up every other improvement by such further measures as he should recommend. Whether one or both of these suppositions be well founded or otherwise, the withholding the notice from the Gazette completely neutralized all the former proceedings, and if ever the commissioners should see it proper to prosecute their hostile resolution, they must commence *de novo*.

That a safe navigation in the river is of the first consequence to the city, is a fact of undeniable importance, but whether the channel has that depth of water required by the act of parliament, can never with certainty be ascertained, in the absence of the original standard. Nor is it unreasonable that the commissioners should be inclined to enforce the stipulations on the company. On the other hand, it must be admitted, that the company have not been regardless of the complaints which from time to time have been urged. In the year 1817, the celebrated Mr. Telford was engaged by the company, and has ever since been retained, for the express purpose of exercising his well known abilities in deepening the

channel. The last report of that gentleman made to the commissioners, states "that the navigation of the river has been maintained uniform and regular since 1826, and at present is in as perfect a state as it is capable of." On the subject of the means employed to deepen the channel, the testimony of Mr. Wedge, the company's agent, a gentleman of undoubted veracity, is entitled to considerable weight. In one of the late meetings of the commissioners, he observed, "that he could most truly and sincerely assure the gentlemen present, and he called upon Mr. Telford to bear witness to the fact, that Mr. T.'s opinion had been invariably solicited and acted upon, not as to the way in which the company might be benefitted, but as to the best means of improving the river; that had been the sole object of the company, in which, during six or seven years preceding 1828, they had expended from 15,000*l.* to 16,000*l.* If any gentleman was not disposed to take his assertion on this fact, he was prepared to confirm it by an oath. It had been asserted that nothing had been done; and that a shilling had not been expended to improve the river; I therefore ask Mr. Telford (continued Mr. Wedge), whether every thing has not been done that he has recommended, and whether he was ever solicited to consult any other object than the improvement of the river?" To these interrogatories, Mr. Telford replied, "I know no other object; every thing has been done that I have recommended."

That Mr. Telford stands high in his profession, no doubt can be entertained; nor am I at all disposed to question his veracity or integrity. But still, as an individual employed by a party, whose interests stand in contact with those of the resident commissioners, it has always occurred to me as a palpable omission, that the latter have not engaged some eminent engineers to survey the channel, with a view of pointing out the capabilities of improvement, and the means by which, if any, the requisite object might be attained. If it should appear, that the operation of physical causes renders its attainment absolutely impracticable, it must be useless, if not

unfair, to press the company on the subject; or if they did, and that successfully, all the proceeds of the company's property, which they would be empowered to employ, would be expended in vain. On the other hand, should it be made satisfactorily to appear, that by some specific process, the required depth of water might be acquired, then, indeed, a good foundation would be laid for enforcing the act, and the amount of expenditure to the company ought not to weigh as an opposing consideration. In the mean time, the crude opinions of men unacquainted with so difficult a subject, which have been plentifully scattered abroad, ought to pass for nothing.* While it is

* Without offering an opinion on the feasibility of the following plan, I shall here subjoin a quotation from an intelligent gentleman of the city, who wrote about the year 1807, relative to the Dee:—"The means that the celebrated Mr. Smeaton took to deepen Ramsgate harbour have long appeared to me (in conjunction with the driving of piles to confine the stream, if possible, within proper limits) particularly calculated to deepen the bed of the river below the embankment, and likewise to increase the quantity of water in the embanked part, and cleanse it when necessary. At the upper end of the harbour he created an immense reservoir, which filled with the flood tide, and the contents of which were, by means of sluices, exploded at the ebb, against the accumulated sand and mud. This soon produced effects, to obtain which government had in vain expended many thousands; the harbour was effectually deepened, and has been the means of preserving hundreds of vessels, which otherwise might have been lost on the neighbouring shoals. To obtain this, and many other valuable purposes, I wish to propose to the river Dee company, to erect a lock with suitable weirs or sluices near the extremity, or perhaps the termination of the new cut. I believe the materials for erecting it, and the proper spot for the erection will be found in a bed of rock near this point. A lock being thus erected, vessels would enter at the flood or any other time of the tide, when there was depth of water enough below the lock to float them into it. Upon the return of the tide, the gates being shut, the water above the lock would be retained, so as to form a noble wet dock, extending in a navigable shape in a south-east direction, past the city, as far perhaps as Bangor."

Whatever credit is due to this speculation, it is certainly entitled to more respect than some other hypotheses that have been advanced. The worthy Recorder Tyrwhitt, who is deserving of much praise from the citizens for his zealous exertions in pressing the company to the fulfilment of their engagements, took up a most unfortunate position in his argument, maintaining, "that the embankments, and the laying down of groins, which had been produced in evidence of the company's wish to fulfil their engagements, had had a direct effect of injuring, instead of improving the navigation." With an almost unbroken stream of authorities against this theory, the learned

incumbent on the corporation and the citizens to watch with vigilance our commercial interests, it is desirable that their proceedings should be marked by wisdom and discretion.

Salmon Fishery in the Dee.

This river was formerly remarkable for the quantity, as it is still for the excellent quality of its salmon. By the charter of Henry VII. the mayor and sheriffs were constituted conservators of the fishery, to whom its protection was confided, and who were empowered to impose

gentleman would have cut a sorry figure in his endeavours to establish it in a court of judicature. Mr. Blackburn, in his observations on recovering land from the sea, published in 1825, says, "When land is recovered on the banks of rivers, another advantage derived is, that by *confining the water, the courses are deepened*; that many rivers, which at present are not navigable, might be made so, to the evident benefit of the country through which they flow; indeed, it cannot be doubted, that the recovery of land, on the borders of rivers is of the utmost advantage." In illustration of this position, may be also quoted, the following remarks from Rees's Cyclopædia (article canal), in allusion to the Dee navigation:—"The new straight cut that was at first eight feet deep in general, principally through marshes, *soon scoured itself out*, so that ships of 200 tons could come up to the town, and where the time of high water became earlier by three quarters of an hour, than when the tide had to make its way through the old crooked and shallow channel."—The preamble to the act of 1699, to enable the mayor and citizens of Chester to recover and preserve the navigation of the river Dee, is also a sufficient refutation of the recorder's position. It states, that "the navigation of the river Dee was theretofore navigable for ships and vessels of considerable burden from the sea to the city of Chester, but by neglect of the said river, and for want of *sufficient banks, works, and fences on the sides thereof against the flux and reflux of the sea*, the channel of the said river was become so various and uncertain, that by sands and otherwise the navigation to the said city was almost lost and destroyed," &c. Captain Yarranton's observations, before quoted, as well as the subsequent acts, all attribute the silting up of the river to the same cause, and recommend embankments as the only effective means of restoring the navigation. It is not necessary, however, to enter further into a comment on this part of the history of the river. It is evident that the river has silted up progressively from the year 1337 to 1733, when the first embankment was begun; consequently the embankments, which had no existence till after 1733, could not be the cause of the sand-banks complained of in the estuary centuries before.

finer and forfeitures against all persons using unlawful nets, &c. their jurisdiction extending from Iron-bridge to Arnoldsheir.* In former times, say 50 years ago, such

* In ancient times the serjeantship of the river was vested in the Grosvenor family. I have not been able to ascertain at what precise period this office was granted, but documents are extant to shew that it was exercised by the head of that house in the reign of Edward IV. It appears that subsequently to the grant of Henry the Seventh's charter, this right was still assumed by the family, though afterwards abandoned. Among the Eaton MSS. I find a precept issued by Sir Richard Middleton, of Chirk castle, and Francis Cholmondeley of Vale Royal, executors of Sir Thomas Grosvenor, and guardians of his son Sir Richard, then a minor, claiming for the latter this office. This document is dated June 24, 1704, and from which the following are extracts :—"Whereas the office of serjeantship and custody of the said river Dee doth belong to us, R. Middleton and Francis Cholmondeley, during the minority of Sir Richard Grosvenor, and all and whatsoever to the said office of serjeantship of the said river Dee in any wise belongeth and appertaineth," &c. * * * * * "Now know ye, that we the aforesaid have constituted, ordeyned, and in our place put Robert Brerewood, of the city of Chester, Esq. to be our sufficient deputy in the said office of serjeantship, &c. from the place commonly called the Iron-bridge, above Chester bridge, to the place called Arnoldsheir, and to have the custody, &c. with full power for the said Robert Brerewood, his deputies, agents, assistants and servants, to have, hold, use, &c. during the minority of the said Sir Richard Grosvenor, yielding an account yearly of his doings, actings, and proceedings, when and as often as he shall be required."

In consequence of this appointment, Mr. Brerewood seems to have addressed an order "to the stewards of the company or society of drawers in Dee," commanding their attendance upon him on a certain day, to which the following note is added :—"This I went with to Mr. Edward Partington, mayor of Chester, who, by the advice of the recorder, refused to sign ; on which I sent my own warrant, as I am alderman of the company of the drawers in Dee, commanding them to attend me in the right of Sir Richard Grosvenor, according to ancient custom, which accordingly they all did, many hundreds of people being present att my setting out, and att my return home. A true account of my proceedings is with Cozen Francis Cholmondeley, to be kept with other evidences in the library at Eaton. ROBERT BREREWOOD, 24 July, 1705."

"10 Aug. 1705.—*A particular of my acts and doings.*

"I desired the mayor's warrant to command the companies of drawers in Dee, that they attend me, but the recorder advised the mayor not to sign my warrant for the purpose ; he alledged that the office of serjeant was given by charter to the city of Chester, by Henry VII. I made out that Richard Grosvenor, Esq. of Eaton, had executed that office in his own right in the reign of King Edward the Fourth, which was long before the cittye's pretensions, on which they all were willing I should proceed to execute the said office in the right of Sir Richard Grosvenor ; but the recorder said it was not convenient for the mayor to sign a warrant, though I shewed a warrant written

was the abundance of salmon taken in the river, that a person now living in Handbridge informs me, he can remember this fish being sold in Chester as low as two pence halfpenny a pound, and seldom more than six pence; and not more than thirty years since, the supply was so great, that after furnishing our own market for the city and neighbourhood, five or six one-horse carts were employed in conveying it for sale to distant places. There are at present about thirty-two oared boats employed in the fishery, which, notwithstanding the advanced price of the article, is much less profitable to the fishermen than formerly; and a still stronger evidence of the diminished quantity of fish is to be found in this fact, that the salmon cage, situated at the south side of the causeway, is now rented at half the sum it was thirty years ago. This reduction in an article of food, which is now deemed one of our prime luxuries, is much to be regretted, and it may also be thought a subject of wonder, inasmuch as there have been more legislative enactments to preserve the salmon fishery than that of any other similar productions. Among the principal causes of this evil, are the following:—1. The practice of using nets, not allowed by act of parliament, particularly in the months of March, April, and May, under pretence of catching sparlings; whereas the object and practice is to take the young fry.

by old George Bulkeley, formerly clerk of the Pentice, relating to the service. I signed the warrant myself, being alderman of the said company. On the 10th I set out from Eaton with three boats, and at the bridge at Chester I was met by all the company's boats, and attended me as far as their boats were able to abide out at sea; but that day proving stormy, I could see no netts or stakes, but got safe at night into Hilbree, with three boats only, though we had nine in company when we came from Chester."—The next and only other assumption of serjeantship by the Grosvenor family took place nearly five years after the above, since which, I believe, no attempt has been made to maintain the right. Mr. Brerewood's report of his last excursion is as follows:—"May 31st, 1710. I went that day in my boate, with three servants downe the river Dee, to cleare the channel from every obstruction that might be therein that might hinder the free passage both of fish and boates, in right of Sir Richard Grosvenor, Bart. but neither in my going down, nor in my return to Eaton, found any netts, stakes, or other obstructions whatsoever. Witness my hand the day and year above written—ROBERT BRERWOOD."

—2. Taking the fish during the fence months, that is, between the 12th of August and the 12th November.*
—3. By placing nets in the mill race, at the bottom of the water, in the months of March, April, and May; and on the passage of the fish from the sea in July, August, and September.—4. In July, August, and September, the salmon fry begin to take the river in great abundance, at from half a pound to a pound and a half weight; a great portion of these are taken in the river between the lower ferry and the causeway in uets, the small meshes of which, in the breast and bag are made for the purpose. If these illegal and destructive practices were suppressed, it is believed, that the fishery might be restored to its former prosperity; nor does the remedy appear impracticable. The law already allows the seizure of nets of improper dimensions, as well as of all fish below a certain size, and in certain seasons, besides the infliction of a penalty of 5*l.* upon each offender. The appointment of an authorised person by the magistrates, narrowly to inspect, and vigilantly to apply himself in the detection of offences, would go a great way in suppressing the evil; and what would render this duty the less difficult of execution is this, that the fishermen themselves would be inclined to lend their aid in putting a stop to it. It may be true that the illegal practices are followed by all, but each pursues them because his neighbours do the same, though he is conscious that whatever tends to a premature destruction of the young fry is ultimately injurious to the general interests of the craft. At all events, the importance of restoring the fishery to the public would justify the most strenuous efforts of the magistracy in adopting measures to promote so valuable an object.

* By a clause in what is termed Home Drummond's act, the magistrates have a discretionary power to fix the fence months; and a gentleman who is intimately acquainted with the fishery assures me, that if the magistrates would alter the present limits of these to from the 1st of October to the 1st of January, they would confer a singular advantage on the fishery.

Canals.

NANTWICH CANAL.—Acts 11 and 17 Geo. III.—The general direction of this canal is about south-east for about 18 miles, in the county of Chester; it is not greatly elevated above the level of the sea; its principal objects are the export of farming produce, and the import of coals and lime for Nantwich town, and the surrounding country; it forms a double communication between two points in the line of the Ellesmere canal, at Chester and at Franckton common. The canal commences in the tide-way in the Dee, in the city of Chester, near to where the Ellesmere canal crosses the same, and terminates at the town of Nantwich; at Stoke, in the parish of Acton, it is joined by the Whitchurch branch of the Ellesmere canal; from Chester to Barbridge, $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, with a fall of 40 feet, to Middlewich, near to the Trent and Mersey canal, but not into it. Although this branch, intended for bringing salt to Chester, was not executed, the expenses amounted to 80,000*l.* and the shares became perhaps the most depreciated of any concern in the kingdom, being sold at one time for less than 1 per cent. of their original value. When this project was first entered upon, the good folks of Chester appear to have thought that their fortunes were about to be made; the cutting of the first sod was celebrated by public rejoicings; and almost every one that could by any means scrape together a hundred pounds, was anxious to embark in this golden scheme, by purchasing a share in it.

ELLESMERE CANAL.—Acts 33, two of the 36, 41, 42, and 44 of Geo. III. The general direction of this canal is nearly south for 57 miles by a crooked course through

the counties of Chester, Denbigh, and Salop; its principal summit is considerably elevated above the sea; its great object is the improvement of the agriculture of the extensive and fertile tracts through which it passes, for uniting the Mersey, Dee, and Severn rivers, and exporting coals, lime, and slate from the skirts of the Welsh hills. This canal commences in the Mersey river (nine miles above Liverpool) at Ellesmere-port in Netherpool, and terminates in the Severn, at Bagley bridge, very near to the termination of the Shrewsbury canal. At the n. w. part of Chester city, it connects with the Nantwich canal, and near the same place, crosses and connects with the tide-way in the Dee river. From Francton common is a branch of about twenty-five miles, passing from the town of Whitchurch to the Chester canal at Stoke, in Acton parish, near Nantwich; from which branch, another of about seven miles proceeds from Fee-moss to Prees-heath; from Hordley, on the main line, a branch of near 11 miles proceeds to the line of the Montgomery canal near Llanymynech and the Verniew river; there being from this branch another to the termination of the Montgomery canal at Portywain lime-works near Llanyblodwell. From the Mersey to the Dee (sometimes called the Wirral branch), the distance is ten miles. The depth of water in this canal is $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet, and the canal in general is calculated for boats of 70 feet long and 7 wide; but the Wirral branch is formed for boats of 70 feet long and 14 feet wide. There is a tunnel near Chirk of 775 yards in length, and another at Weston Lullingfield of 487 yards in length. At Pont-cysyllty, this canal is carried over the river Dee in an immense aqueduct trough, composed of cast iron plates, 20 feet wide, 6 feet deep, and 320 feet long; this is supported on 19 pair of conical stone pillars, at 52 feet asunder, and the middle ones 125 feet in height. At Chirk is a very large stone aqueduct bridge of ten arches, 200 yards in length, and 65 feet high, over the Ceriog river; and over the Allen river there is also an aqueduct bridge. This canal is fed from the Dee river by the Llandisillo branch, and that river is compensated by

a cut from Bala-pool ; and, all springs within two miles from this canal may be taken for its use. Near Ruabon one of Rowland and Co.'s balance locks was, in 1797, tried on a 12 feet fall, for saving water. The engineers employed on this extensive work, were Messrs. William Jessop, Thomas Telford, John Fletcher, and Thomas Dadford. The most considerable progress was first made at the northern end of the line, and in February, 1796, flats laden with coals began to arrive at Chester from the Lancashire collieries by the Wirral branch, and soon after convenient passage boats were established, for the regular conveyance of passengers towards Liverpool or back, on lower rates than are charged on the Bridgewater canal, according to distance. In January, 1797, the navigation was continued to Beeston-brook ; and in the same year the southern end of the line was opened from Shrewsbury to the Weston-Lullingfield tunnel. The company are authorised to raise 500,000*l.*, the amount of shares being 100*l.* which at this time (1831) are about 25*l.* below par.

Trade.

It is difficult to say, observes Mr. Pennant, speaking of Chester at the time of the conquest, what were the articles of exportation, excepting slaves and horses. The first barbarous traffic was carried on by the Saxons to a great extent. The description of the mart* is an exact picture of negro commerce, till within these late years a national reproach to our country. Horses were another article; but their exportation was prohibited, except they were designed for presents, by a law of Athelstan. But these, as well as several others, such as metals, hides, dogs, and chalk, were probably still exported, as in the times of the Romans. Chester was admirably situated for supplying all these articles, except the last. The frequent wars carried on with the Welsh, furnished them with slaves; if those were wanting, their neighbours of the Northumbrian kingdom were ready to dispose of their nearest relations. The rich plains of Cheshire furnished horns and hides; and the Cambrian mines, lead and copper. Cheese must not be omitted as a most important article; for the Britons made so considerable a progress in the arts of the dairy, that even under the Roman

* There is a town called *Brichton* (Bristol) opposite to Ireland, and extremely convenient for trading with that country. Wulfstan induced them to drop a barbarous custom, which neither the love of God nor the king could prevail on them to lay aside. This was the mart for slaves, collected from all parts of England; and particularly young women, whom they took care to provide with a pregnancy, in order to enhance their value. It was a most moving sight to see, in the public markets, rows of young people of both sexes, tied together with ropes, of great beauty, and in the flower of their youth, daily prostituted, daily sold. Execrable fact! wretched disgrace! Men unmindful even of the affection of the brute creation! delivering into slavery their relations, and even their very offspring. *Vita S. Wulfstan*, in *Angla Sacra*, ii. 258. Wulfstan was bishop of Worcester, and died in 1025.

reign there was a great exportation of cheese for the use of the Roman armies, in which this county doubtlessly had the greatest share. The imports were the spices and other luxuries of the east, procured either from Venice, or afterwards from the cities of Pisa and Amalfi, the magazines of the precious Asiatic commodities. Cloth was brought from Flanders and linen from Germany, reliques and ecclesiastical finery from Italy, the staple of superstition. Rich armour was another considerable article; for war and religion created in those ages the most important commerce of the state. The warriors and the sainted images were the beaux of the time; the crimes of the former were supposed to be readily expiated by prostration to the latter; and acceptance was announced by the priest in proportion to the value of the offering. France and Spain supplied them with wine; and the discovery made towards the north by Ohthere, under the direction of Alfred, gave us furs, whalebone, feathers, walruses' teeth, and other articles from that cold region. Martins skins are twice mentioned in the Domesday book among the imports of Chester. Ireland might also supply them with furs, and several other commodities; this being the channel of communication on this side of the kingdom, and the great mart for the Irish commodities. A sensible but uncouth poem, about the year 1430, published in *Hakluyt* i. 199, gives us a list of its articles of commerce:—

Hides and fish, salmon, hake, herringe,
 Irish wooll, and linnen cloth, foldinge,
 And martens good be her marchandie,
 Hertes hides and other of venerie.
 Skinnes of otter, squirrel, and Irish hare
 Of sheepe, lambe, and foxe, is her chaffare,
 Felles of kiddes, and conies great plentie.

It is certain that Chester has long been a celebrated port. It appears to have been a station for the Saxon navy, and frequently the seat of the court of the Mercian kingdom, both during the heptarchy, and after it became a province at the general union under Egbert.

From what has been already advanced, it may be concluded that the commerce of the port of Chester must have been very inconsiderable, from the 15th. to the 18th century, in consequence of the impracticability of the navigation of the Dee. In the reigns of Queen Elizabeth, James I. and the beginning of that of Charles I. the principal trade seems to have been in calves skins. In the first of those monopolizing times, the queen grants one Arthur Bulsano a license to export 6000 dickers of leather of calves skins, ten dozen to every dicker, for seven years, paying five shillings per dicker. James I. granted to James Maxwel, Esq. a licence to export 18,000 dickers for the same duty, and for twenty-one years, and this was afterwards confirmed to him by Charles I.

In 1771, the foreign trade of Chester seems to have been at its meridian, since the restoration of the channel ; in that year was entered at the custom-house, 95 vessels inwards from foreign parts, and 216 entered outwards. The following table, commencing with the year 1776, will shew how great the decrease of our foreign trade was within six years afterwards, and its continued state from the latter period up to the present time. The number of coasting vessels entered in the above year (1771) inwards 297 ; outwards 526. The table below will shew an amazing increase in this branch of commerce. The importation of Irish linen into Chester, at our Midsummer and Michaelmas fairs, was formerly very extensive, and a large hall being erected, containing upwards of a hundred shops for vending that article, drew purchasers from all the surrounding country. This trade began about the year 1736, in which 449,654 yards were imported. The importation continued to increase till 1786, at which period it was at its height, and in which year the quantity brought in was 1684 packs ; 14 chests ; 988 boxes ; 20 bales ; 16 cases ; 6 parcels ; and 8 bundles ; making altogether more than 100,000 pieces, or upwards of 5,000,000 of yards ; in 1796 only 582 packs and 808 boxes were imported into Chester, and in 1806, only 327 packs and 936 boxes. From the latter period, the

direct importation has been regularly diminishing, and has now totally ceased.

Comparative State of the Trade of Chester from the year 1776 to 1830.

[Communicated by the Comptroller of the Customs.]

TRADE OF CHESTER.	1776	1786	1796	1824	1830
Coasting vessels entered inwards	208....	241....	206....	434....	786
Ditto ditto outwards	619....	454....	402..	1326..	1572
Ireland inwards	140....	48....	32....	28....	61
Ditto outwards	104....	108....	81....	160....	155
Iale of Man and other foreign ports outw.	8....	18....	1....	19....	8
Ditto inwards	4....	23....	15....	46....	30
Number of ships in foreign trade be- } longing to this port.....	22....	8....	6....	5....	3
Ditto coasting trade	18....	25....	17....	67....	74

But perhaps nothing will serve to exhibit the increased trade of the port within late years so forcibly as the following statement:—

	£.	s.	d.
In 1813, the annual receipts of the port were	7021	18	5½
From the 5th of Jan. 1828 to 5th Jan. 1829	24919	6	8½
From the 5th of Jan. 1829 to 5th Jan. 1830	24852	5	3½

Notwithstanding the increase of vessels employed in the port, it will be seen, from the above table, that it is chiefly in the coasting trade; that of the foreign being very inconsiderable. This shews the absence of that commercial genius of the inhabitants which so eminently distinguishes our neighbours across the Mersey; yet the port extends on the Cheshire side of the estuary, as far as the end of Wirral; and on the Flintshire, to the Vôr-ryd, or the mouth of the Clwyd. This, properly speaking, is only a division of the great port of Chester, which reaches one way as far as Barmouth in Merionethshire, and another way to the extremity of Lancashire. In those tracts are several other ports, all subordinate to the comptroller of Chester; and even Liverpool, in the patent, is styled a *creek of the port of Chester*.* The dependant child has long since outgrown the ancient parent.

* In the year 1555, the shipping of Liverpool was inconsiderable; as, according to an estimate in the town's records, it appears the number of

Manufactures.

From the earliest era, of which we have any records, it is clear, that one of our principal local manufactures was that of dressing the skins and hides of animals. Thus in the translation of a transcript I have given out of the greater Domesday-book (*vide vol. i. p. 125*), *marten's skins** were known as an article of consequence in the time of Edward the Confessor. A great portion of our early imports consisted of large quantities of kid and lamb skins from Leghorn and other parts of Italy, which were dressed here, and then manufactured into gloves. The dressing of sheep and calf skins also formed a large branch of manufacture. Such, indeed, may be considered the staple of the place, and gave rise to that immense pile of warehouses and work-shops on the borders of the river, known by the name of *Skinner's-street*. In this description, however, must also be included the tanning trade, which was carried on here to a great extent, and which seems to have had its seat principally on the north side of Foregate-sreet. *Horn-lane*, (now called Steam-mill-street) is said, with great probability, to derive its name from the number of the *horns* of beasts which were there piled together, and formed a kind of fence or boundary on each side of the road. It may also be noticed, that in digging foundations for houses on the opening of

vessels belonging to that port was only 12, and they were navigated by 75 mariners, and the number of barks belonging to the port of Wallasey, on the Cheshire shore, was 3, and which employed 14 seamen. In 1700, the number of ships belonging to Liverpool was 84; in 1720, to 130; in 1760, to 226; in 1793, the number had increased to 606; which number has since been more than doubled. In the year 1724, the amount of the dock duties was only £810; in 1807, they amounted to £62,831, and are now upwards of £100,000. The increase of population and prosperity has kept pace with that of the commerce of the town. In 1565, the number of householders and cottagers was only 138, which, allowing seven persons to a house, would make the number of inhabitants 966. In 1700, the population was 4240; in 1730, it had increased to 12,000; and according to the census of 1821, (an interval of 90 years) the population of Liverpool amounted to 118,972

* This animal is a large kind of weasel, whose fur was then much valued, and seems antiently to have been claimed by royalty.

Seller-street, a great number of tan-pits were discovered. Both these branches of manufacture have greatly declined, particularly the former ; there is now no direct importation of the Italian leather, and the dressing of it, as well as the glove trade, have chiefly migrated to Worcester-shire. The remains of the skinning trade are now in the hands of Messrs. W. and T. Topham, and Messrs. Rogers and Pover ; and the whole of the workshops and warehouses principally occupied in the branch have been pulled down, the site of which is to be encircled by the city walls, in order to enlarge the precincts of the castle. The tanning trade, though much reduced, is still carried on to a considerable extent.

Ship-building has been carried on at Chester for many centuries, for which there are capacious yards situated on the border of the Dee, near the house of industry, and which are the property of the corporation. During the late war, several vessels of war were built here, carrying about 24 guns each, and merchant ships have been launched of 500 tons burthen. In the *Magna Britannia*, published in 1810, Messrs. Lysons offer the following complimentary tribute to this branch of our manufacture : “There are now more ships built at Chester than at Liverpool, they being in great estimation among the merchants at that and other principal sea-ports of England and Scotland, as particularly well-founded, and in the mariner’s phrase *sea-worthy*.” The ship-yard is at present occupied by Mr. Mulvey and son.

On the north side of the old canal, nearly opposite to Boughton, are situated the extensive lead-works of Messrs. Walker, Parker, & Co. which employ a great number of hands. In these works are comprised a patent shot manufactory, which is carried on in a circular tower of brick, 150 feet high, considered a very perfect building of the kind ; and also, a large red and white lead manufactory, in which the steam engine, the steel rollers, and every part of the machinery, are formed upon the most improved principles. Another shot manufactory, but of less extent, and of more recent erection, is in Commonhall-street,

built by the late Mr. Mellor, but now occupied and carried on by Mr. Ellis. Here also we have some respectable iron foundries, paper mills, roperies, and several extensive tobacco and snuff manufactories, the latter furnishing a commodity of superior quality, with which the greater part of North Wales and the adjoining counties are supplied. There was formerly a very extensive manufacture of tobacco pipes at Chester, established upwards of two centuries ago; these pipes were esteemed the best in Europe, and about fifty years ago, were exported in great quantities to foreign countries; pipes of a peculiar sort, called *hog-pipes*, being shorter than those in common use, were made for the Guinea trade; the home consumption trade now only remains, and that in a diminished state. The editors of the *Magna Britannia*, published in 1720, speak of the trade of Chester, as having been much augmented by the industry and ingenuity of a colony of Dutch, who had then lately settled there. I cannot discover any trace of such a circumstance, nor do any Dutch names appear in the parochial records of that period. It is not improbable that the Palatines were meant, for it appears that many of those distressed foreigners who sought a refuge in England in the year 1709, remained in this kingdom, and some of them are known to have resided at Chester, in St. John's parish.

During the reign of Edward the Confessor, there were seven mint masters in Chester, who annually paid 7*l.* during the time their mints were at work. Chester was one of the six cities in which mints were established during the reign of William III. The goldsmiths of the city were incorporated in 1700, and had the authority of parliament to elect an assay-master. The gentleman who now fills the office is Mr. John Walker, goldsmith.

From what has been said, it will be seen, that although some of our staple manufactures have left the city, we have still several extensive establishments, which furnish employment for the working classes; and notwithstanding the fashionable complaint, that we have lost our trade, and with it the source of our prosperity, yet there

are incontrovertible evidences which shew that Chester still maintains its station for wealth and consequence. In fact we can boast of some as opulent traders as perhaps can be found in more celebrated towns of enterprise, and many of our shopkeepers may be ranked among the most respectable of the kingdom. The progressive increase of the population, with a corresponding accumulation of dwelling-houses are no less indicative of the prosperous condition of the city. The census of 1801 gives our population at 15,152, and that of 1821 at 19,949, making an increase of 4797 persons, or nearly one-fourth in twenty years; and there is very sufficient reason to believe, that within the last ten years, our numbers have been augmented beyond this increased ratio. Another proof of improvement may be found in the extended intercourse of the city with other parts of the kingdom, and in its enlarged condition as a thoroughfare for travellers. This fact cannot be more forcibly elucidated than by the following—

Comparative Statement of the Number of Coaches leaving Chester daily in the years 1801 and 1831 :*

Places.	In 1801.	In 1831.	Peacock's Office.	White Lion.
To London.....	2.....	5.....	4.....	1
Manchester	1.....	4.....	3.....	1
Liverpool	2.....	8.....	5.....	3
Shrewsbury	1.....	4.....	3.....	1
Walspool	0.....	2.....	2.....	0
Holyhead.....	1.....	2.....	2.....	0
Wrexham	0.....	1.....	1.....	0
	<u>7</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>6</u>

Besides the above, there is also a daily communication between Chester and Liverpool, by the packet from

* At a period somewhat earlier, the means of travelling were still more circumscribed. About the year 1760, a stage coach from the north of England to London, passed through Warrington every week. It was customary for travellers from Chester to the capital, to go to Warrington on Sunday to be ready to set out in the coach at three o'clock on Monday morning, and the passengers considered themselves fortunate if they arrived in London late on the following Saturday evening. The roads were then so bad, particularly between Warrington and Holmes Chapel, that the coach was drawn by six, and occasionally by eight horses.

the Tower Wharf, in which a great number of passengers are conveyed.

Before the year 1784, not a single coach went out of Chester to Liverpool. The first was set up by the late Mr John Paul, then of the Pied Bull, to Liverpool, by way of Eastham, and that gentleman has been heard to declare that this was a most hazardous speculation.—About this time there was a man residing in Further Northgate-steet, well known by the name of *Jemmy Ctinger*, who kept two ponies, which he hired to travellers going to Eastham, at a very moderate rate, sending a messenger on foot to bring them back. One flat only was then sufficient for the carrying trade from hence to Liverpool; whereas the number now employed for that purpose amounts to from twenty to thirty.

There are two great fairs held in Chester every year, one on the 5th of July, and the other on the 10th of October, which continue for fifteen days each, the signal for the commencement and termination of which is notified by the hanging out and taking down of a glove,* on the south side of St. Peter's church. These fairs are of great antiquity, being recognized as established fairs by the charter of Hugh Lupus, earl of Chester, who granted to the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh the extraordinary privilege, that no criminals resorting to them should be arrested for any crime whatever, except such as they might have committed during their stay in this city. These fairs are great marts for the sale of various sorts of goods, particularly fustians, printed cottons, muslins, and other articles manufactured in Lancashire; hardware from Sheffield and Birmingham; flannels from Wales; woollen cloths and stuffs from Yorkshire, and hops from Kent, Sussex, and Worcester; and of late years there

* It is not improbable, that the glove might allude originally to what was considered as the staple trade of the city; in corroboration of which it may be observed, that at the Midsummer show a glove was formerly delivered by the wet glovers to the mayor, as a part of their homage, and till within these few years, it was not unusual for the glovers to present the mayor with a pair of gloves on his election.

have been great quantities of toys, trinkets, and other kinds of fancy goods exhibited. The first day is chiefly occupied as a horse and cattle fair, on which day also, a great quantity of tanned leather is exposed for sale. Within the last twenty years a great alteration has taken place in the mode of doing business at these seasons. It was formerly usual for the wholesale dealers to transact the principal part of their business in the first two or three days of the fair, during which there was a considerable influx of shop-keepers from the principality, and different parts of the country, to stock themselves with various commodities. This is no longer a general case; and the principal portion of the business is now transacted during the last week of the fair. From the increased system of travellers traversing the country for orders, and the practice of retail dealers visiting the seats of our manufactures to purchase goods, the wholesale transactions at our fairs have been materially diminished; and if a deterioration equal to the last twenty years continues for a like period, little will remain of the ancient lustre of our great Midsummer and Michaelmas fairs.—Besides the above, there are six fairs annually held in Chester, namely, on the last Thursday in February; first Wednesday in April; first Wednesday in May; first Wednesday in September; first Wednesday in November; and the second Wednesday in December, for the vending of horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, &c. which are well attended, and at which a good deal of business is done. But perhaps we have no recent establishment that produces more benefits to the city and neighbourhood, than the fairs instituted here in the summer of 1830, for the sale of cheese, bacon, butter, and other agricultural produce. These are held on the same days as the fairs above enumerated, in the New Linen and Commercial Halls, places well adapted for such a purpose, both having dry and convenient shops for the safe deposit of such commodities as remain unsold. Although this fair has been but a short time in existence, its utility and advantage have been already extensively experienced, particularly in the article of cheese, the great

staple of our county. By large quantities of this and other articles of food being brought to open market, the inhabitants and small shopkeepers have the opportunity of purchasing on lower terms than when they had to pass through the hands of the large factors and dealers. But the benefit and advantage to the dairy farmers, especially to those of small capital, are still more considerable; not only because they obtain better prices for their cheese, which this establishment has hitherto secured, but because the frequent occurrence of the fairs furnishes them with the means of turning their produce into ready money to meet the calls for rent, or other contingencies; whereas, before this useful mart existed, their necessities compelled them not unfrequently to sell to disadvantage, and at such prices as they could obtain from the factors. A great deal of business is now carried on through the medium of these periodical fairs, which is likely still to increase, as probably no scheme was ever adopted better calculated to benefit a local district, or that was more warmly encouraged and patronized.

In Chester we have two market days, Wednesday and Saturday, on both of which, particularly the latter, there is a plentiful supply of flesh meat, fish, poultry, vegetables, and fruits of all kinds, which are sold at prices somewhat lower than in the larger manufacturing towns in the neighbourhood. We have also an abundant supply of coal, brought to the city both in flats and by carts, from the mines in Flintshire, on moderate terms, being upon an average not more than 12s. 6d. per ton, delivered at the door. Upon the whole, there are few towns better supplied with the elegances or necessities of life, than the venerable city of Chester.

The Gas Light Company,

Was formed in the year 1817, but no act of incorporation was obtained. The number of shares is 685, the original price of each 20l.; a share is now worth 25l.

The dividends have averaged nearly six per cent. per annum. The concern is managed by a committee of seven proprietors, chosen by ballot at the annual meeting of the company in July. The present committee are, G. B. Granville, Esq. Mr. Witter, Mr. Booth, Mr. Allender, Mr. S. J. Roberts, Mr. Gabriel Roberts, and Mr. T. Whittle. The company's main and branch pipes have been progressively extended throughout the city, and during the last year have been carried to the remotest parts of the city's limits, so that at present every street, row, and avenue is lighted up with gas. Complaints, however, are occasionally made by the citizens of the offensive stench produced by the escaping of the gas, and sometimes for the dimness of the light. Most of the principal shops in the city are lighted up with this material.

Chester Water Works.

It has already been noticed, that in 1600 a lofty octagonal tower was erected on the Bridge-gate, by permission of the corporation, by John Tyrer of this city, containing the works, which for a long time raised water out of the Dee to a cistern in the top, whence it was conveyed in pipes to almost all parts of the city. Possibly these did not answer their purpose effectually; for in 1622, Tyrer had a new grant of a tower erected for a water-work and a well place, ten feet square, near *Spittle Boughton*, with full power for the conveyance of water to a cistern or conduit near the high cross. This work seems to have fallen into decay. In 1692, the works undertaken by Tyrer, being found to be ruinous and useless, *John Hopkins* and *John Hadley*, by the encouragement of the corporation, began new works for supplying the city with water from the river Dee; for this purpose they purchased the grant made to *Tyrer*, and also one of the corn-mills, for the conveniency of placing their engine. The city confirmed to them all the powers formerly

vested in *Tyrer*, and particularly that of setting up a cistern opposite to the Abbey-court, as a constant receptacle for fresh water.* Who the immediate successors to the property in the water-works were, after the decease of *Hopkins* and *Hadley*, I am unable to say ; but from beyond the period of human memory they were always designated as the Water-work Company. In the year 1824, however, the whole of the shares were held by a few individuals, not exceeding four or five. About this time, or soon after, several respectable gentlemen put forth a scheme to establish a *new company*, proposing to bring water from the Dee at Boughton, and it was more than hinted, that a large portion of *pure spring water* might at stated times be supplied to the inhabitants from Barrel-well. Loud complaints were raised against the old company for not furnishing a sufficient supply of water, as well as for abusing their monopoly by exorbitant rates. From the flattering representations exhibited by the projectors, the scheme was embraced with great zeal by the public, and adopted with the utmost avidity : it was finally resolved either to compete with, or supersede the old company, and a competent number of shares being obtained, steps were taken to obtain the sanction of an act of parliament. Some unforeseen difficulties, however, occurred ; and it was ultimately found necessary for the new company to purchase the pipes and right of supply from the old company, whose predecessors in 1692 had obtained from the mayor and corporation the grant of an exclusive right for themselves, *their heirs, and successors for ever*, to supply the city with water ; which deed of grant, unless superseded by an act of parliament, was declared by eminent lawyers to be legally binding upon the mayor and corporation of the present and all future times. By this compromise, the obstacles to the obtaining an act were removed, and it was passed in

* This cistern remained and was employed for this purpose till the year 1828, when, on the taking down of the old shambles, it was removed, and replaced by another, fixed over the engine-house at the top of the new potatoe market.

1826. In consequence, a powerful steam engine, with double force pumps, was erected close to Barrel-well, and suitable apparatus for purifying the water, by deposition and filtration commenced upon. According to the plan of the original promoters of the undertaking, capacious reservoirs are also to be erected in different elevated parts of the city, to supply the inhabitants with the water previously purified, and propelled into them from the works. At present the latter desirable improvements have not been completed; but in justice to the inhabitants, ought to be no longer delayed.

In the first instance it was proposed, that the profits to the share-holders should be restricted to five per cent. on their capital, but by a subsequent arrangement, it was agreed they might receive $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to which the act of parliament limits the profits. Whether the terms upon which the new company compromised with the old were more unfavourable than the former contemplated, or whether the expences of their works have exceeded their calculations, I know not; but this fact is much better known than admired, that the new proprietors have added 50 per cent to the rates charged by the old ones, so that every householder who paid 20s. a year for water is now chargeable with 30s. Notwithstanding these advanced rates, the company have made only two dividends to the share-holders since the act was obtained, namely, a dividend of four per cent. in 1828, and another of five per cent. in 1830, upon a capital of 8000*l*. the total amount subscribed for the undertaking. The advanced rates of the company, although authorised by act of parliament, ought not to have been made until their works were completed, and every part of the city supplied with an abundance of pure water, and through those improved mediums which the company are pledged to provide. When this is accomplished, no objections will be offered to such a reasonable scale of charges as would afford the company a fair compensation for a satisfactory supply of wholesome water, particularly when compared with the quantity and quality of that formerly furnished, which

scanty supply was occasionally attended with a total deprivation, in consequence of the water wheels being stopped by heavy freshes in the river, dry summers, and high tides. The affairs of the company are managed by a committee of seven proprietors, annually chosen; the present committee are, Mr. F. Thomas, Mr. Lloyd, Mr. Soorn, Mr. Barclay, Mr. Richards, and Mr. Myers, with whom was associated the late Alderman Newell.

To the foregoing description of our trade, manufactures, &c. may here be added a few remarks on the general state of society in Chester. The excellent situation of the city, as a place remarkable for the salubrity of its air, the attractions of its walls as a fine promenade, and the absence of manufactories, and the crowds of the lowest rabble they engender, render it a desirable residence for the higher classes; and perhaps there are few places where the gentry form so great proportion of the community as here. It may be observed, however, that these, in general, are not remarkable for their opulence, a great portion of them consisting of junior branches of good families, dependent on moderately competent incomes; retired officers of the army and navy; or resident clergy, of whom the head of every diocese furnishes a goodly number. Of course, this class of our population move in the highest circle, and with comparatively little expence, enjoy all the advantages of polished society—a state of things which naturally induces numbers similarly circumstanced, to take up their domicile amongst us.—Hence it is, that we have usually many residents of small fortunes, who are not natives, but who, with circumscribed means, preserve a footing with the best company. It must not be inferred, however, from these observations, that affluence is excluded from our city. On the contrary, there are several individuals, whose fortunes are very large, and whose station in society entitle them to rank with the first characters in the land. All the elegant

amusements and establishments that grace the most distinguished towns and cities in the kingdom may be found within the city, which are patronized by the higher classes with the utmost zeal. It is no uncommon occurrence to see the assembly room at the Royal Hotel attended by from 250 to 300 of the gentry of the city and vicinity. Occasionally the theatre exhibits a similar display of our fashionables, particularly when its attractions are heightened by the appearance of some of the metropolitan *Stars*; but it must be confessed, that of late years, the taste for theatricals has greatly decreased, either from the fastidiousness of our gentry, or the paucity of professional talent. Forty years ago, the Chester stage, under the management of Messrs. Ward and Bellamy, was second only to that of London, when it could boast a Cooke and Mrs. Ward as stationary performers, and the frequent occasional visits of Munden, Mrs. Siddons, and the imitable Mrs. Jordan.* Musical talent receives warm

* The following interesting anecdote of Mrs. Jordan is related by Mr. Boaden, in his life of that excellent actress, lately published:—"During her short stay at Chester, where she had been performing, her washerwoman, a widow with three small children, was by a merciless creditor thrown into prison. A small debt of about forty shillings had been increased in a short time by law expences, to eight pounds. As soon as Mrs. Jordan heard of the circumstance, she sent for the attorney, paid him the demand, and observed, with as much severity as her good-natured countenance could assume, 'you lawyers are certainly infernal spirits, allowed on earth to make poor mortals miserable.' The attorney, however, pocketed the affront, and with a low bow made his exit. On the afternoon of the same day the poor woman was liberated; as Mrs. Jordan was taking her usual walk, with her servant, the widow with her children followed her, and just as she had taken shelter from a shower of rain in a kind of porch, dropped on her knees, and with much grateful emotion exclaimed, 'God for ever bless you, madam! you have saved me and my poor children from ruin.' The children, beholding their mother's tears, added by their cries to the affecting scene, which a sensitive mind could not behold, but with strong feelings of sympathy. The natural liveliness of Mrs. Jordan's disposition was not easily damped by sorrowful scenes: however, although she strove to hide it, the tear of feeling stole down her cheek, and stooping to kiss the children, she slipped a pound note into the mother's hand, and in her usual playful manner replied, 'There, there; now its all over; go, good woman, God bless you! don't say another word.' The grateful creature would have replied, but her benefactress insisted on her silence and departure. It happened that another person had taken shelter under the porch, and witnessed the whole of this

patronage, as is uniformly exhibited by a splendid attendance at our frequent concerts, which usually command the performance of the most celebrated professors in the country. These elegant entertainments are generally held in the assembly-room of the Royal Hotel; as, altho'

interesting scene, who, as soon as Mrs. Jordan observed him, came forward, and he, holding out his hand, exclaimed, with a deep sigh, 'Lady, pardon the freedom of a stranger; but would to the Lord the world were all like thee.' The figure of this man bespoke his calling; his countenance was pale; and a suit of sable, rather the worse for wear, covered his tall and spare person. The penetrating eye of Thalia's favourite votary soon developed his character and profession, and, with her wonted good humour, retreating a few paces, she replied, 'No, I won't shake hands with you.' 'Why?' 'Because you are a methodist preacher, and when you know who I am, you'll send me to the devil!' 'The Lord forbid! I am, as you say, a preacher of the gospel of Jesus Christ, who tells us to clothe the naked, feed the hungry, and relieve the distressed; and do you think I can behold a sister fulfil the commands of my great master, without feeling that spiritual attachment, which leads me to break through worldly customs, and offer you the hand of friendship and brotherly love?' 'Well, well, you are a good old soul I dare say—but—I—I don't like fanatics; and you'll not like me, when I tell you who I am.' 'I hope I shall.' 'Well, then, I tell you, I am a player.' The preacher sighed. 'Yes, I am a player; and you must have heard of me. Mrs. Jordan is my name.' After a short pause, he again extended his hand, and with a complaisant countenance, replied, 'The Lord bless thee, whoever thou art; his goodness is unlimited; he has bestowed on thee a large portion of his spirit; and as to thy calling, if thy conscience upbraid thee not, the Lord forbid that I should.' Thus reconciled, and the rain having abated, they left the porch together; the offer of his arm was accepted; and the female Roscius of comedy, and the disciple of John Wesley, proceeded, arm in arm, to the door of Mrs. Jordan's dwelling. At parting, the preacher shook hands with her, saying, '*Fare thee well, sister; I know not what the principles of people of thy calling may be—thou art the first I ever conversed with; but if their benevolent practices equal thine, I hope and trust, at the great day, the Almighty God will say to each, Thy sins are forgiven thee.*'" Thus far Mr. Boaden.—Of the correctness of the above incident, in its main features, I am enabled to speak with some degree of confidence. But the biographer has fallen into error in designating Mrs. Jordan's companion a *methodist preacher*. This individual was no other than the late *Mr. Collin Robinson*, an old pensioner, who kept a flour warehouse at the bottom of Lower Bridge-street; he was a *methodist*, but not a *preacher*; answerable in every other respect to Mr. Boaden's description; and with some eccentricities, was one of the kindest-hearted men I ever knew. Mr. Venables, of the Blue-school, assures me, that Mr. Robinson afterwards related to him the above occurrence, in which he had been a principal actor, and that the place where the parties had taken shelter from the rain, was in what is termed *Pemberton's Parlour*, on the north side of the city walls.

we abound in almost every other accommodation for the display of fashionable life, we have no public building appropriated to musical science. Some efforts have been attempted, and some advances made, towards the erection of a music-hall, but they have hitherto failed. A very respectable and efficient choral society has been established in the city, which while it developes, does great credit to our native talent. This excellent society is supported by general subscriptions, the subscribers having the privilege of attending the occasional performances in the Diocesan-school, George's-street, where the attendance is highly respectable. News-rooms, reading-rooms, libraries, and other fashionable resorts abound, which afford ample means for the indulgence of the lazy lounge, and the gratification of the man of literary or scientific research. But the most amiable and prominent trait in the character of our city gentry, is that spirit of active benevolence which leads them to the establishment and support of institutions which have for their object the bettering the condition of the poor, the aged, the sick, and the destitute; the instruction of the ignorant, and the reclaiming of the vicious. Of this fact, the history of our public charities, given in a preceding part of this work, is a striking illustration. If in this work of mercy and charity, a distinction may be hazarded without offence, and I think it may, then I should be inclined to say, that the *ladies* of Chester are still more pre-eminently distinguished than the other sex. It is true, indeed, that every town and city may be able to produce instances of the zeal and warmth of female benevolence; but among the ladies in Chester and its immediate vicinity, there seems to be but one feeling, one consentaneous habitude, created and kept alive by an amiable competition, which inspires them, as by common consent, to minister to the wants and necessities of the species. This tribute to female excellence is not the mere breath of idle compliment, but has its foundation in sincerity and truth; and if respect to the sensibility and modesty of the individuals would allow it, I could enumerate a long list of resident ladies

of the first quality, who not only contribute pecuniary aid to the public institutions, but who statedly visit the habitations of sickness and wretchedness, with the view of relieving the miserable inmates; who acquaint themselves with the circumstances, and enter into the feelings of their poorer neighbours; who devote their personal attentions to the morals and temporal interests of youth in our various schools, and who are upon all occasions sensitively alive to every object that claims the assistance, and demands the aid of Christian sympathy.

In descending from the higher to the middling rank of society, we can claim for our city, a most respectable class of tradesmen and shopkeepers, some indeed that may be considered rich. In towns, like Chester, where there is little or no foreign commerce, and no extensive local manufactures, the acquirement of wealth is usually slow and tardy in its progress; as in commercial places, it rolls not in, in huge masses, with the tide of fortunate speculations. But it may be remarked also, that if our laborious toiling tradesman knows of no sudden influx of affluence, which elevates him at once to independence, neither is he ruined by the unfortunate failure of gigantic schemes of commerce, or the unexpected depression in the value of his commodities, that reduces him at a stroke to a state of beggary. This dissimilarity in the habits and pursuits of life in the middle orders of society naturally creates a difference of character in places differently circumstanced. If for instance, the comparison be made between Liverpool and Chester; it will be generally found that in the former, the higher class of tradesmen are lavish and profuse in the disposal of their property when a public call is made upon their purse, and that the amount of its distribution is governed less by the intrinsic merits of the object to be assisted, than by a determination not to be thought inferior to their neighbours; and the same motive governs them in the splendour of their domestic establishments, and the expensiveness of their table. In the latter, the case is quite different. Not that the Chester tradesman has less of public spirit,

or is more indifferent to the claims of public usefulness, but his pecuniary gifts are more soberly measured by the amount of his ability, and the real utility of the subject for which his assistance is solicited, and the like may be said of his domestic economy. With habits far removed from ostentation, and in the absence of enticing examples that might provoke imitation, he seems quite satisfied with real, without panting after artificial enjoyments. The cause of this disparity of character has already been hinted at; and in fact it arises from this, that the one acquires wealth, or loses it in large masses, and scarcely knows how to estimate its value, having large sums constantly passing through his hands; the other has obtained it by dint of patient industry, and in small portions, and can at any time, within a few pounds calculate the exact amount of his fortune. I shall attempt no comparison between the *splendour* of the Liverpool merchant and the *solidity* of the Chester tradesman; but I will venture to affirm, that the latter will suffer no disadvantage in an impartial estimate. To all general descriptions there must always be exceptions, but those who are intimately acquainted with Chester society will admit the correctness of the outline here delineated.

The like causes that produce a dissimilarity in the middling ranks of society in the city, as compared with manufacturing or commercial towns, operate also in some degree, in creating a difference as to the poorer classes. The latter here do not form so large a portion of the community as in those places; and the fluctuations of commerce or stagnation of trade affect but in a slight degree the industrious poor, who are chiefly employed in the domestic occupations of life, or in supplying the demands of our home consumption. In general, they are well instructed in the lower branches of education, for which there are abundant means, in several excellent schools, where the elements of learning are gratuitously taught. There is, however, much less taste in this class of our residents, for reading and the acquirement of useful knowledge, than among the weavers and other mechanics.

of Lancashire. This may, in part at least, be ascribed to the want of opportunities. We have no juvenile or mechanic's libraries, and scarcely any others accessible to the poor; and hence it is, that the extent of their reading is mostly confined to a newspaper. Among the numerous institutions of Chester, of a useful nature, there is nothing of the kind; and in this respect, we are behind-hand with most of the provincial towns of equal importance. Were some of our public spirited gentlemen to step forward in promoting an establishment, from which our youth might obtain useful books at a cheap rate, an essential benefit would be conferred upon the community, by giving a favourable direction to the pursuits of our young men, who now spend their leisure time in wandering about the streets and rows of the city, where they contract habits of profligacy. If a taste for reading and knowledge be not acquired in the early part of life, it seldom happens that it is contracted afterwards; and where this is neglected, the vacant mind usually seeks and rests upon objects which are less satisfactory, or rather more pernicious. In remarking upon the lower classes of society in Chester, I cannot help expressing my conviction, that the frequent and almost constant political broils, with which the city has been cursed for the last twenty-five years, have done more injury to their manners and morals, than all other causes put together. These lamentable results are referable not merely to the seasons of ardent contest, when intoxicating liquors are limited only by the evil capabilities of the rabble, who neglect their work for the time; but to the dissolute and idle habits which are created by these scenes of dissipation. The rancorous feelings also, engendered by party animosities, have been kept in a state of continual excitement, and personal animosities and ill-will have almost utterly banished good neighbourhood, and those kindly emotions and stayedness of the mind, without which we can expect no propriety of demeanour, or regularity of conduct. Perhaps nothing has contributed more to these asperities, and to a consummate vulgarity of manners in the lower classes, than

the disgusting scenes which have usually been exhibited at our common-halls, during elections, whether parliamentary or civic. Upon these occasions, the Exchange has generally been crowded with people, of whom they have constituted the great bulk ; and here have been congregated in one mass, as in a focus, all the low ribaldry, coarse wit, and vulgarism of the city, which have been profusely and indiscriminately scattered upon magistrates, or other respectable characters, in the most outrageous vociferations. By the frequent repetition of these exhibitions, a Chester rabble has acquired a kind of tact for vulgar sarcasm and repartee that may be confidently pitted against those of any similar body in the united kingdom. The indecorous and sometimes indecent slang of our common-halls has generally found its way into every alley and corner of the city, and been reiterated in our streets in an offensive way, to the no small annoyance of the peaceable inhabitant. But we may now be permitted to hope, that these disgraceful scenes, and the evils to which they have given rise, will cease to exist. A brighter prospect opens to our view, which promises an extermination of our party feuds, and a return of those happy days, when the interests of one part of our population will be considered as the interests of all.



Roman and other Antiquities

Found in Chester.

AT the time when Mr. Pennant wrote his *Tours in Wales*, about the year 1778, several monuments of antiquity had been discovered, which were sufficiently indicative of the residence of the Roman Legions within the city; but since his publication, numerous other evidences of the same fact have been brought to light; and, indeed, it seldom happens at this day, but some relics of the olden times are discovered, whenever the foundations of ancient buildings are dug up. In the following list of Chester antiquities are comprehended all those that have been recorded by former writers; to which numerous others are added, which have been brought within the author's personal cognizance.

1. The first inscription discovered here, of which there is any knowledge, commemorative of the 20th Roman Legion, was in the year 1653, on an altar found in Forest-street; and is now among the Arundelian marbles at Oxford. The back plain, on one side a *præfericulum*, and on the other an uncommon *patera*. A piece of iron had been fixed upon the top within the *thuribulum*. The inscription when perfect, was—

I. O. M. TANARO
T. ELVPIVS. GALER
PRAESENS. GVNTA
PRI. LEG. XX. V.V.
COMMODO. ET. LATERANO.
COS.
V. S. L. M.

i. e. *Jovi Optimo Maximo Tanaro Titus Elvpius Galeria (tribu) Præsens Guntia primipilus (or præfectus) legionis vicesima Valentis Victricis Commodus et laterano Consulibus Votum Solvit libens merito.* It was first published by Selden and Prideaux, in their *Marmora Arundeliana*; then in Dr. Gale's *Antoninus*, p. 3. The epithet of *Tanarus*, which occurs only here, is equivalent to *Tonars*. Prideaux and Gale read *Præses* instead of *Prærens*; but Horsley says, the N was too plain to admit of this alteration. He supposed *Prærens* another name of the dedicator. But he forgot he had put the tribe between these names. We must, therefore, probably read *Galerius*. *Guntia* expresses his country, which some took for *Gwinedha*, or *North Wales*, but professor Ward for *Guntia*, in *Vindelicia*. The date is A. D. 184, A. U. 906, when Lucius Aurelius Verus, surnamed Commodus was consul with Sextilius Lateranus under Antoninus Pius.

2. An altar, found in digging a cellar for Mr. Heath, near the Eastgate; the stone was about two feet square, and was lying with the inscription, of which the following is a transcript, downwards:—

PRO. SAL. DOMIN
 (ORV)M. NN. INVI
 CTISSIONORVM
 AVGG. GENIO LOCI
 FLAVIVS. LONG(VS)
 TRIB. MIL. LEG. XX (VV)
 LONGINUS. FIL
 (E)IVS. DOMO
 SAMOSATA
 V. S.

i. e. Pro salute Dominorum nostrorum invictissimorum Augustorum Genio Loci Flavius Longus tribunus militum Legionis Vicesimæ (Victricis et) Longinus filius ejus domo Samosata votum solverunt. Horseley supposes the emperors, on whose account it was erected, to have been Diocletian and Maximian. On the back of the altar is represented a curtain with a festoon, over which is a globe surrounded with palm branches. On one side is a vase with two handles, from which issue acanthus leaves supporting a basket of fruit; on the other side is a genius with a cornucopiæ in his left hand, and an altar on his right. On the top of the altar is a human face within the thuribulum. Around it were found the marks of sacrifice; heads, horns, and bones of the ox, roe-buck, &c. and with them two coins; one of Vespasian in brass, with his head, inscribed IMP. CAES. VESP. AVG. COSS. III. and on the reverse, VICTORIA AUGUSTI S. C. and a winged Victory standing. The other was of copper, inscribed round the head of Constantius, FL. VAL. CONSTANTIVS NOB. C.; and on the other side GENIO POPULI ROMANI; alluding to a genius holding in one hand a sacrificing bowl, in the other a cornucopiæ.

3. An altar found in the Watergate-street in 1779, still preserved in the grounds of Oulton-park. This beautiful altar is addressed by the family and freemen of a certain person, FORTUNÆ REDUCI ET ESCULAPIO. The inscription, with a few restorations, is as follows:—

FORTVNÆ. REDVCI
 ESCVLAP. ET. SALVTI EIVS,
 LIBERT. ET. FAMILIA
 (CAII) PONTII. T. F. CAL. MAMILIANI
 RVFI (A)NTISTIANI. FVNINSVANI
 VETTO(NIA)NI. LEG. AVG.
 D. D.

On the sides are the emblems of those deities, and various sacrificial instruments. This is also in possession of the Oulton family.

4. Another Roman altar in excellent preservation was found in a field at Boughton, between the Tarvin and Christleton turnpike-roads, in the year 1821. It is four feet high, and bears the following inscription:—

NYMPHIS
 ET
 FONTIBUS
 LEG. XX.
 V. V.

Thus rendered into English—"To the Nymphs and Fountains, the 20th Legion, the invincible and victorious."

This valuable piece of antiquity was purchased by Earl Grosvenor, who erected a small Gothic temple for its reception, in his fine grounds at the east front of Eaton-hall, where it still remains.

5. Dr. Gale gives an inscription (Antonini It. p. 53) noticed also by Selden, and in the Appendix to the *Marmora Oxoniensia*, which he states to have been found at Chester.

DEAE
NYMPHÆ
BRIG

6. The next is a statue, in possession of the late Rev. Mr. Prescott, of Stockport, with a *Phrygian* bonnet on his head, a little mantle across his shoulders, and a short jacket on his body. He is placed standing, with a torch in his hands declining. This is supposed to have been *Mithras*, or the sun; a deity borrowed from the Persians, and much in vogue among the Romans in the second and third century. An inscription, DEO SOLI MITRÆ, has been discovered in Cumberland. The *Phrygian* bonnet marks him for a foreign duty. The declining torch shews the funebrious occasion of this stone.

7. In 1738 was discovered, in digging foundations in the market-place a fragment of a slate, on which was cut the figure of a *Retiarius*; a species of gladiator, who fought furnished with a trident and a net; with the last he entangled his adversary, with the trident he slew him.

Movet ecce tridentem

Postquam vibrata pendentia retia dextra

Nequicquam effudet—*Juvenal.*

His antagonist was called *Secutor*. He was armed with a long shield, and a dagger; and seems to have been sure of victory, in case the *Retiarius* missed his throw. The stone is so mutilated, that only part of the shield of the *Secutor* is preserved. This relic is in the possession of Henry Potts, Esq.; and so curious was it thought by Mr. Pennant, that he informs us he procured a cast in plaster from the stone.

8. Mr. Horseley mentions another stone, discovered in digging a cellar in Watergate-street, in 1729. The inscription is so imperfect, that he ingeniously confesses, that without the aid of fancy, it cannot be made out.

9. A tessellated pavement was discovered near the site of the Benedictine nunnery of St. Mary, in making some recent alterations at the castle a few years ago, which was unfortunately destroyed by the workmen. In noticing this old relique, a gentleman observes, “When nearly every morsel was gone, I had the curiosity to see what was under it. There was broken groined rubble; the remains of a knife, quite swelled out with corrosion, and a feather or large quill, perfect, but blackened as with fire.”

10. There was a Roman altar, with the *thuribulum* perfect, and prettily cut and grooved, found on the north-west angle of St. Bridget’s new church, where the plantation stands; there was no inscription on it; it was in the possession of W. M. Henderson, Esq. by whom it was presented to Colonel Barnston. Near it at the same time was thrown up a medal of silver, or white metal, ‘*Neptunus et Pallas*,’ with Neptune on the obverse, and a vessel, and figures on the reverse; a deal of broken tiling, with a LÆG. XX. VV.; some crockery of the finer red clay, with figures, and several stamped with the maker’s name. “It struck me,” says the gentleman who

communicated the above, that at that spot there had formerly been a temple, that it was the nearest temple to what was the landing-place from the sea, and that it was dedicated to Neptune. A leaden lamp and an iron key (such an one as is engraved in Pennant, found near Flint) were also found, and given to Colonel Barnston." The same gentleman adds, "I gave a Roman *Fibula* to the late Mr. Nicholls, who I imagine had a good collection."

11. In 1813, several vases and lamps and a demi figure habited in a sacerdotal costume, were found at Netherlegh, within the city liberties, near the line of the Watling-street, in sinking a cellar at the residence of Sir John Cotgreave. The vases were of red clay, and arranged in cells a little below the surface, each cell containing four or six vases. Some of them contained ashes, and in others the lamps (which were of white hard clay) were deposited. One alone was got up unbroken, which was presented to, and is now in the possession of Earl Grosvenor. The broken fragments, together with the lamps, were presented by Sir John to W. M. Henderson, Esq. of the castle.— Since the above, several other memorials of antiquity have been dug up near this mansion, as Roman fasces, spears, rudely sculptured stones, a spear head, part of an ancient spur, and a GUN-LOCK, partaking of the style of the 16th CENTURY.

12. The Roman streets are traced by the existence of pavements below the present four principal streets, which are occasionally laid bare, and in some places cut through the rock on which the city stands, from three to four feet below the natural level of the ground.

13. In digging up the ground for building the new Linen-hall were found several Roman bricks about 18 inches long, and 12 inches in breadth; they had each of them an edge turned upon each side, raised an inch above the surface of the brick. One of them had the following inscription impressed:—LEG. XX. V.V. *Leyto Vicewimo Veleks Vicitrix*. At the same time there were found upwards of twenty Roman pieces of money, but the inscriptions and the figures were so obliterated, that very little could be made from them, excepting two, which were of the first order, particularly one of Nero, of the large copper.

14. At the back of a smith's shop, at present occupied by Mr. Rathbone, nearly under the Feathers Hotel, in Bridge-street, are preserved, in a tolerably perfect state, the remains of a hypocaust, and of a sweating bath, much in use among the Romans, as a superlative luxury. The entrance of the hypocaust is in height six feet, grooved round the outside probably for the falling into it of an iron door. The breadth of the entrance is two feet nine inches. The length of the hypocaust in the inside is fifteen feet. The depth is six feet seven inches. There is a room twice as large as the hypocaust, surrounded with a strong stone wall, which you go through, and afterwards ascend some broad steps to the hypocaust. When the machine for the weighing of coals (now removed) was erected, part of the angle of a Roman building was pulled up at that time, which was undoubtedly one end of the bath; from thence to the hypocaust is thirty-five feet, and according to the rules of architecture in *Vitruvius*, thirty-five feet more for the building must be allowed on the other side of the hypocaust, for the hypocaust was always placed in the centre of the building, and the depth of the building must have been not less than sixty feet. In the hypocaust there are thirty-two square pillars; the height of each is three feet; top and bottom twelve inches.

square, the middle part nine inches. There are four rows of pillars, the bottom is covered with thick brick tiles, laid in cement of a great thickness; the pillars support large square tiles, fixed in cement. The upper part of the hypocaust has several rows of vents or spiracula, to convey the heat upwards, and at the sides, into the tubes of iron or copper, for the use of the hot and warm baths, and the different *Sudatoria*. The wall, which is stone, surrounding the hypocaust, is two feet in thickness.

15. Another hypocaust was discovered in Watergate-street in January, 1779, but apparently of greater extent, which is thus described by Mr. Pennant:—"It contained two sudatories; one smaller, having only ten pillars on two sides, and a vacant space in the middle. Adjoined to it was a small apartment, with the walls plaistered, which probably was the room in which the slave stood, who supplied the place with fuel. Before these was a large chamber, with a tessalated pavement of black, white, and red tiles, about an inch square. On the further side was a subterraneous passage, possibly a drain. Adjoining to this is a sudatory, resembling that within the *Feathers Inn*; and beyond that is a small apartment, floored with tiles, four inches and a half by two and a half, set edge-ways. The large perforated tiles for conveying the steam, and the layers of mortar, the pillars, and other particulars, were found here as in the former." These were removed to Gulton Park.

16. A Roman *Fibula*, or brooch, gilt and enamelled, with deep blue in front. This ancient relique was found about six years ago, when sinking a cellar underneath the shop occupied by Mr. Richard Weaver, grocer, on the north side of Eastgate-street. On comparing this antique with a drawing and description by Pennant, in his *tour in Wales*, I find it to correspond in every particular, both in form, size, and colour, with that which he has given.

17. A brass *Pin*, about three inches long, very much resembling the Roman *Stylus*, and probably that instrument, found on sinking the ground at Martin's Ash.

18. A *Lachrymatory*,* about six inches high, of cream-coloured clay, found in 1817, on sinking a cellar, at the house on the south-east end of Seller-street; and at the same time and place were dug up several copper-coins of Vespasian.

[The three last antiques are in the possession of Mr. John Lowe, goldsmith.]

19. Another *Lachrymatory*, of a smaller size, formed of red clay, about four inches high, found in Foregate-street in 1826.

20. A Roman *Urn*, of a similar material, found in a field at Boughton, near the junction of the Roman road to Mancunium and Midislanum (Cherterton in Staffordshire) in the beginning of the present century.

21. A Roman *Tile*, measuring about 9 inches by 4 in fine preservation, bearing the inscription, in bas relief, LEO. XX. V.V.

* The *Lachrymatory* is certainly entitled to a high degree of antiquity, and is supposed to be alluded to by the Psalmist (Ps. lvi. 8.) in the following words, *Put thou my tears into thy bottle*. Dr. A. Clarke, in his commentary on these words, says, "Here is an allusion to a very ancient custom, which we know long obtained among the Greeks and Romans, of putting tears which were shed for the death of any person into small phials, called *Lachrymatories*, or *Urnae Lachrymales*, and offering them on the tomb of the deceased. Some of these were of glass, some of pottery, and some of agate, sardonyx, &c. A small one in my own collection is of hard baked clay."

[The reliques No. 19 to 21 are in the possession of Mr. S. Gardner, of Eastgate-street.]

Coins in possession of Mr. John Lowe, goldsmith.

22. A large brass Roman coin of Hadrian in fine preservation; obverse, the emperor's head, *Legend, Adrianus Aug. Cos. IIII. P.*; on the reverse, a genius holding in one hand a sacrificing bowl, and in the other a cornucopia, with the initials S. C. This coin was found in Linenhall-street, about five years ago.

23. A silver coin of Augustus Cæsar; on the reverse a star and crescent; found in a garden near Boughton, in 1828.

24. Another of Antoninus Pius; found in Windmill-lane in 1829.

25. Another of Hadrian, in fine preservation; found in the Tower-field, about nine years ago.

26. Another of Julia, found in Mr. Potts's garden, in Watergate-street.

27. A silver coin of Canute the Dane, coined at Derby, found in Bridge-street, in 1830.

The following scarce coins were lately in the possession of Mr. S. Gardner.

28. A colonial coin of second brass, found within the Watergate; on the obverse the heads of Julius and Augustus, inscribed IMP. & DIVI. F.; on the reverse, the conquest of Egypt is represented by the figure of a crocodile, (an animal at that period considered altogether peculiar to that country) which is chained to a palm-tree, at once a native of the country and symbolic of victory.—[Julius Cæsar was slain 46 years before Christ; Augustus began to reign 28 years before Christ.]

29. A silver coin, found near Stanley-place; obverse, an eagle between trophies, inscribed LEG. XX.; reverse, a Roman galley.

30. Another, found near Netherlegh-house; obverse IMP. CÆSAR VESPASIANVS AVG.; reverse, a figure with the hands chained on the back, sitting on the ground near a palm-tree, inscribed IVDAEA.

31. A gold coin, found in making the foundations of the castle; obverse, IMP. COES. VESP. AVG. CEN.; reverse, a figure with an olive branch, standing by an altar, inscribed PAX. AVG.

32. A gold coin, found in Boughton; obverse, IMP. CAES. NERVA. TRAIAN. AVG. GERM.; reverse, a figure with an instrument of sacrifice, inscribed P. M. T. R. P. Cos. IIII. P. P.

33. A gold coin, found in the Nuns Gardens, of Faustina the elder, wife of Antoninus Pius; obverse, the portrait, inscribed DIVA FAUSTINA; reverse, a female figure, inscribed, AVGVSTA.—[This coin is in a very fine state of preservation; the portrait is beautifully executed: the hair is fastened in many wreaths to the top of the head, and ornamented with pearls or beads.]

34. A large brass coin, found at the Eastgate; obverse, T. Cæc. Vespasian. imp. Pon. Tr. Pot. Cos. VI.; reverse, ANNONA AVGVST. S. G.—[The emperor Titus having occasion to import a large supply of corn during a scarcity at Rome, that supply, or the ANNONA is finely represented as a sedate lady with a cornucopia in her left hand; in her right hand, over a basket filled with wheat, she holds a little image of Equity, known by her scales and pointless spear. Behind the ANNONA is the prow of a ship decked with flowers, to indicate, that the corn was brought by sea (from Africa) and that the ship had had a prosperous voyage.]

36. A gold coin, found in a field near Smith's-walk, Nicholas-street ; obverse, the portrait, inscribed NERO CÆSAR, AUGUSTUS ; reverse, a figure in a sitting posture, the legend, SALVS.

An old arch, called the *Ship-gate*, or *Hole in the Wall*, has been already noticed (vol. i. p. 368) as of Roman origin, and it has always been so deemed by our best antiquarians. This venerable erection was situated on a part of the walls which it was necessary to pull down, in order to their diversion nearer to the river, by which Skinner-street will be inclosed by them. In April, 1831, the old arch was taken down, but I am happy to say, that its materials, and even its form, will be preserved, being removed to the garden of F. Maddock, Esq. behind his house in Abbey-square, where it will be re-erected. A lithographic view of this ancient postern, taken but a few weeks before its removal, will be found in vol. i. p. 368.

Another piece of antiquity, decidedly Roman, has also been adduced, in our account of the old Eastgate, (vol. i. p. 340.) where, in the middle of the gates, fronting the east, there was a statue, ten feet from the ground, cut upon one large stone in alto relievo, grooved or fixed into the gate by a kind of dove-tail work, and could not weigh less than half a ton. It has been stated by several writers that this curious antique was afterwards honoured with a station in the garden of a Mr. Lawton, but what has since become of it I have not been able to learn.

SUBTERRANEAN PASSAGES.—In giving an account of that old edifice, called the *Lamb Row*, on the site of which some new buildings now stand, between Grosvenor and Cupping-street, I have ventured a conjecture, that there was anciently a subterraneous passage beneath that erection. In the *Polichronicon*, the existence of these passages is maintained, and Stukely, in his *Itinerary*, supports this hypothesis. Mr. Pennant, however, seems to doubt the fact, but without giving satisfactory reasons for his opinion, beyond this, that he had never been able to discover any of these hollow ways. Upon application to an intelligent gentleman for information on the subject of the *Lamb Row*, and the passage found under it, I received the following account, which I give in that gentleman's own words :—“ I have been informed that the building was formerly the residence of one of the celebrated Randle Holmes, as a slight corroboration of which, I found a stone in one of

H.
the walls, inscribed R. M. ; and it appears by the corporation books, that on
1609

the 10th January, 1667, Randle Holme was fined £3. 6s. 8d. for contemptuously proceeding with his building in Bridge-street, contrary to Mr. Mayor's command. This, I suppose, was the young Randle Holme, and one would incline to believe, that the order applied to some alteration at the *Lamb Row*, as none but an antiquarian would have put together such an heterogeneous jumble of antiquity as it presented at the time it fell ; and the tremendous overhanging of the upper story fully justified the infliction of a penalty, even in those times, when deformity and obstruction seemed to be the order of the day. The present building is retired from its original front about eleven feet, and the overhanging projected into Bridge-street upwards of ten feet more in some parts, making a projection of 21 feet from the present site—a fact which we can hardly reconcile to credibility, though so recently witnessed. The old building formed a square, with an area of about 14 feet by 30 in the

centre, partly galleried round, and on the north side was a large room open to the roof, with an immense fire-place. It had undergone all the vicissitudes of a private house, an inn, a chapel, a theatre, a mart for the sale of Welsh salt butter, a leather market, a currier's workshop, and a common lodging-house, besides the various occupants of the ground story in retail shops. It is not possible now to say at what period the old wood building was erected, as I fancy it must have been of a date nearly a century antecedent to that inscribed on the stone before alluded to; but previous to that erection, there had evidently been a stone building on the spot of considerable magnitude, probably connected with the adjacent church, as in enlarging the cellars, we came to the foundation of a stone pillar about four feet high, and five feet in diameter, covered over with rubbish, and unattached to any walls of the building, though nearly in the centre of it. There is a singular excavation running through the whole building to the extent of upwards of 100 feet, and not terminating at either extremity of the premises. It is perhaps a branch of one of those subterraneous ways, alluded to in our ancient histories: it is uniformly through its whole extent about five feet wide and 16 feet deep in the rock, as I have ascertained with iron rods, and in one place where I had the curiosity to sink to the bottom, I found it filled with soil, and at the depth of eight feet it appeared to have been boarded across with three-inch oak plank, dividing it into an upper and lower road, each eight feet high. The direction of it is nearly due east and west, rather inclining to the left of the line of Cuppin-street, and at intervals there are small square enlargements, as if intended to admit a passing. It would be gratifying to curiosity to trace this road (or aqueduct), which could be done, particularly at the east end, where the ground is not high above the rock, at a trifling expence, with a common iron rod, if permission could be obtained where it was necessary; for there can be no doubt but such an excavation must have been intended for some public purpose, the nature of which, by following the direction of it some distance, might possibly be pretty accurately surmized."

Although tradition alone is but uncertain data, upon which to found an hypothesis, yet when it is supported by facts that give an air of probability to its correctness, we should pause before we discard it as fabulous. The above, and other instances mentioned in the preceding pages, certainly go a great way towards a very probable conclusion, that there have been passages under ground. Besides, it is now decidedly ascertained, that in other towns they have existed; and if in one town, I can see no reason why they may not in another, and particularly in such a place as Chester, whose ancient remains are more numerous than those of any other city in the kingdom. The following quotation from Troughton's History of Liverpool, may serve in some measure to illustrate this point:—"A long subterraneous passage was discovered by the workmen employed in sinking the foundation of the Exchange Buildings in 1804. It commenced at a wall which stood at a place formerly known by the name of the White Cross; extended underneath the space occupied by the west wing of the new building, and terminated under the prison at the bottom of Water-street. This prison was formerly a tower, and the passage was probably intended to answer the purposes of supply, or communication, during a siege."

Brief Biographical Notices OF DISTINGUISHED NATIVES AND RESIDENTS OF CHESTER.

It will not be expected that the notices under this head will be other-
wise than brief and select; and particularly as many of our most distinguished
characters have been incidentally mentioned in the preceding parts of the
work.

Among the eminent natives of this city may be reckoned, say the Messrs.
Ipsons, Roger of Chester, and Ralph Higden, two ancient historians; Henry
Bradshaw, author of the "Life of St. Werburgh;" and with more certainty,
David Middleton, who settled the English trade at Bantam; his brother, Sir
Henry, who made a voyage to the Red Sea, and discovered Middleton's
Straights; John Downham, author of the "Christian Warfare" (son of
Bishop Downham); Dr. Whittingham, Dean of Durham, translator of the
Geneva Bible, and versifier of those Psalms in the old version which have the
signature W.-W.

EDWARD BREKEWOOD was born and educated at Chester. In 1581,
when 16 years old, he entered at Brasen College, and wrote commentaries
upon Aristotle's *Ethica*, about the 21st year of his age. In 1592, when
Queen Elizabeth was at Oxford, he replied at a disputation on natural philo-
sophy. In March, 1596 he was chosen the first professor of astronomy of
Gresham College. He died of a fever, Nov. 4, 1613.

The family of the HOLMES, distinguished for their antiquarian researches,
were also natives of this city. Dr. Gower, says the *Magna Britannicæ*,
speaks of only three antiquaries of the name of Randal Holme, father, son,
and grandson, but it appears that there were four in succession of that name,
and there are collections of all four among the numerous volumes (above two
hundred and fifty) among the Harl. MSS. which were purchased for the Earl
of Oxford, after the death of the last Randal Holme in 1707. The second
and third Randals were the principal collectors, but there are some collections
brought down by the last to the year 1704. The first of the name was sheriff
of Chester in 1615, and mayor in 1633. It appears that he was fined £10.
for his contempt in not attending to receive the honour of knighthood, at the
coronation of King Charles I. according to the statute (Harl. MSS. 2022.
No. 36). It seems therefore that he was in better circumstances than his
immediate descendants, who were by no means rich, and after the third de-
scendant very much reduced. They were of a respectable family of gentry, being
descended from John Holme, who died 4 Henry VI. which John was son

of Robert Holme, who in right of his wife (co-heiress of Richard de Tram-mol) was lord of a moiety of Tram-mol; this moiety continued in the family of Holme for several generations.

SAMUEL MOLYNEUX, was born in the city of Chester, about 1689. His father was the celebrated William Molyneux, the companion and friend of Locke. The plan of education recommended by this celebrated author was pursued in the tuition of Samuel Molyneux, and attended with success. His early attainments were marked by manly intelligence, and proportionate wisdom accompanied the increase of his years. When arrived at manhood, he had the fame of being one of the most accomplished characters of the age. He was chosen Secretary to George the Second when Prince of Wales, and had a residence at Kew, where his place being only a sinecure, he in concert with Mr. Bradley had an opportunity of prosecuting his favourite study, astronomy. Mr. Molyneux invented an accurate instrument for determining the annual parallax of the fixed stars. He was soon after appointed a Commissioner of the Admiralty, and was constrained by the pressure of national business to relinquish his accustomed pursuits. The change of his studies neither suited his inclination nor his genius; and his death which happened on the 3rd of January, 1730, shortly followed his promotion. His papers were published by Dr. Smith in his "*Treatise of Optics*."—*From Cooke's Topography*,

WILLIAM BURGANE.—This gentleman was a native of Pulford, near this city, and appears to have received his education at the King's School in Chester. In his native village, he must have possessed considerable property, and his family seem to have resided there ever since. I believe the only branch of the family now remaining is Miss Burganie, whose brother was a captain in the army, and was killed in Ireland during the rebellion of 1798. Mr. Burganie possessed some learning and literary talent, though he is but little known even in his own neighbourhood as an author. The only account of him I have met with is in Nicholson's *Literary Anecdotes*, from which is principally taken the following sketch. He appears never to have published, but only prepared for the press a volume of no inconsiderable bulk in the Greek and Latin languages, chiefly poetical. The work is No. 573, in the catalogue of the late Dr. Askew's manuscripts, sold by auction 1785, at Messrs. Leigh and Sotheby's, who describe it in the following words:—"Gymnasmata Græca Latine, et plerumque Versibus translata, with a head, and several curious coloured drawings and maps."—Subjoined to the introductory verses addressed to the reader is the author's name, *Gulielmus Burganiæus*; to which he adds the following couplet:—

"Inspicis hunc nostrum quicumque libellum,
Sis placidus, mea nec carpe, sed ede tua."

And in a poem towards the close of his volume, entitled, "A description of West Chester," he informs, he was born at Pulford, a village about four miles to the south of that city; that he was educated at the school near Chester cathedral, where he became conversant with the poems of Virgil and Horace; the Greek letters in the margin make the date of his birth 1618, and of his writing this piece 1688, when he mentions his continuing to reside at the place of his nativity in a state of agreeable indolence. This is all I meet

with relating personally to the author, except that he says he purchased "*ce livre papier*" for eighteen pence, of a Mr. Minshull, at Chester, in 1683. He begins with a few little dialogues and short orations; then follow poems, which form the bulk of the volume, and contain several thousand lines chiefly in hexameter measure. The Greek and Latin is carried on from the beginning to the close of the volume, in opposite pages; he is sometimes spirited, but often flat and tedious. His Latin verses are frequently mutilated in their sense, that they may keep in exact proportion with the Greek. His longest piece of all is, "A series of divine revelation, from Adam, Noah, and Moses, down to Jesus Christ," in Greek verse and Latin prose, but the "Downfall of Croesus," the "History of Androcles and the Lion," with the most of his other topics, are treated poetically in both languages. Events in the English history, the greater part of which took place in the author's own time, or not long before, occupy no inconsiderable part of his volume. The subjects are, the Defeat of the Spanish Armada, the Gunpowder Plot, the Report of a Peace during the Civil Wars, the Restoration of Charles the Second, and the Fire in London. The poem of the civil war is written with so much caution, as to its political sentiments, as to carry with it no trace whether the author was a royalist or a parliamentarian; though he observes, that the whole nation was obliged to adopt the ancient law of Solon, which forbade any man to stand neuter. He however warily confines himself to describing the miseries of war, without discovering a bias towards either party. In his verses on the restoration, he catches the zeal of the times, and denominates Charles the Second a "Second Phoenix." The first drawing is the author's portrait, who is represented with a thick bushy head of hair combed over his forehead, and hanging down behind almost as low as the broad bands he wears down before; his coat and waistcoat, with a multitude of small buttons, are such as were commonly worn in the last century; the following couplet is underneath:—

'Corporis effigies nulla tam viva tabellis
Nostri quam scriptis mentis imago nitet.'

Of the other twenty drawings I can challenge the greater part as copies from Sandye's Travels, Quarle's Emblems, and the prints in the common prayer book; under one of them is written, '*per me T. Burganie*,' which looks as if they were executed by one of the author's family, under his own direction."

THE REV. GEORGE TRAVIS, was a native of Royton, in Lancashire, educated at Manchester school, under Mr. Purnell, and admitted a sizar in St. John's college, Cambridge, 1761, under Mr. Abbot. He took his degree of B.A. 1765, M.A. 1768, and was archdeacon and prebendary of Chester; rector of Handley, and vicar of Eastham, in this county. Though a pluralist, and a man of respectable talents, Mr. Travis was remarkably affable, facetious and pleasant. The universality of his genius was evinced by various transactions in which he was concerned, and in all of which he excelled. In his manners, the gentleman and the scholar were gracefully and happily blended. Among other branches of knowledge, he appeared to have been familiarly acquainted with the law of tithes; but, turning his mind too eagerly to sacred criticism, he undertook to vindicate the controverted text, 1 John v. 7; and met with powerful antagonists in Griesbach, Porson, Marsh, and Pappelbaum. His labours, however, have proved not a little useful to the world,

having excited a closer attention of learned men to the MSS. of Stephens, to the Valerian readings, and the MSS. at Berlin, &c. relative to the authenticity of the present text of the Greek testament. After a very short illness, he died at Hampstead, whither he had removed for the benefit of the air, February 24, 1797.

DR. JOHN HAYGARTH was born at Garsdale, a retired valley of Yorkshire, in 1740. After a good classical education at the grammar school of Sedburgh, he proceeded to St. John's college, Cambridge, and took the degree of M.B. in 1786. He soon after settled at Chester, where for thirty-one years he enjoyed an extensive practice, and most ably discharged the duties of physician to the Infirmary of this city, being elected to that office in 1787, and retiring in 1798, when he was succeeded by Dr. Thackeray, who filled the situation until the year 1827, with distinguished zeal and ability, and who still continues to benefit mankind, not only in his extensive practice, but also as the promoter and patron of every pursuit which has for its object the public good.* From Chester Dr. Haygarth removed to Bath, where he

* Dr. Thackeray has been one of the most extensive planters of timber in this district. He commenced this favourite pursuit somewhat more than twenty-five years ago, and the following table will exhibit the extent of his labours in successive years since, with the country where he has planted :---

	A.	R.	P.
1804 and 1805.....Denbighshire.....	22	2	10
.....Merionethshire.....	24	1	37
1805 to 1806.....Denbighshire.....	9	2	31
.....Merionethshire.....	9	0	0
1806 and 1807.....Denbighshire.....	16	3	28
.....Merionethshire.....	66	3	0
1807 and 1808.....Denbighshire.....	44	0	16
1808 and 1809.....Denbighshire.....	7	3	31
.....Merionethshire.....	2	0	9
1809 and 1810.....Denbighshire.....	42	1	20
.....Merionethshire.....	52	0	9
1810 and 1811.....Denbighshire.....	28	2	17
.....Merionethshire.....	21	2	26
1811 and 1812.....Denbighshire.....	3	2	0
1812 and 1813.....Merionethshire.....	6	2	16
1813 and 1814.....Denbighshire.....	4	2	17
.....Merionethshire.....	4	0	34
1814 and 1816.....Flintshire.....	193	0	23
1818 and 1819.....Denbighshire.....	76	2	0
1826 and 1828.....Denbighshire.....	68	0	0
1830 and 1831.....Denbighshire.....	75	1	13

Dr. Thackeray seems to have adopted the correct opinion that agriculture is the foundation of national wealth and independence, and the source of individual prosperity and riches. Since the denudation of the cliffs of Cambria, by Edward I. for the purpose of subjugation---the subsequent destruction in the war of Glyndwr, and the necessity there was of lessening even the remainder of the woods, from the shelter they afforded to the perturbed spirits which the accession of Henry VII. and the consequent close of the wars of York and Lancaster, let loose upon the country---little has been done till within the last thirty years for the restoration of her forests. A spirit of equal and rational usefulness is now, however happily pervading the proprietors of estates in the neighbouring principality, and distinguished among these is Dr. Thackeray. Over and above a great deal of hedge-row planting, in counties quite bare of such ornaments, upwards of seven hundred and eighty acres are covered with trees, on what was before

successfully continued his profession so long as his health would allow ; and where he followed up that course of active benevolence which he had commenced in early life. To him the whole kingdom is indebted for the introduction of a plan for separating fever cases from their more immediate connexion with public hospitals, or for the establishment of what are called fever wards.* This improvement was carried into effect at his recommendation, and in conjunction with his colleague, Dr. Currie, at the Chester infirmary, in 1783 ; and its utility became so generally appreciated by the medical profession, that the plan was immediately adopted in other hospitals, and is now become universal. Dr. Lettsom, in his "Hints designed to promote Beneficence, Temperance, and Medical Science," speaks in the highest terms of this, and Dr. Haygarth's other exertions. His remarks are these :—"In reflecting upon the importance of the object which Dr. Haygarth has happily effected, of stopping the progress of infectious fevers, by a plan equally simple and efficacious, the mind dwells with pleasure in witnessing the influence of philanthropy, directed by medical science, in snatching victims of contagion from the deleterious air of an infected chamber, and in preserving whole families, with the friendly visitors, from the insidious poison ready to invade every age and rank, and to spread disease and death among the community. In arresting and subduing two poisons (the small pox and fever) the most fatal to the human race, in pamphlets,—in unveiling impostors clothed in the meretricious garb of bold quackery (in his tract on metallic tractors)—the philanthropic physician justly acquires the approbation of a grateful public, and with a mind conscious of having deserved it, is truly rich in its own reward, as his own sentiments testify." To him also mankind are indebted for an investigation of the nature, causes, and prevention of contagion, derived from philosophical principles. The facts which he ascertained by a patient examination of this subject, led to the formation of his "Rules of Safety," the value of which have been proved, wherever they have been adopted. The medical works of Dr. Haygarth are numerous, and highly valued by the public, and particularly by the profession. But the energy of Dr. Haygarth's mind was not confined to his professional duties. His active benevolence in promoting the education and increasing comforts of the poor are well known. His endeavours upon the former point while residing at Chester are recorded in "A letter addressed to Bishop Porteus," 8vo. 1812, in which he also calls the attention of the public to the state of the free schools in the north of Eng-

waste land, of little or no value, lying in detached pieces in Flintshire, Denbighshire, and Merionethshire. In addition to the care of good planting and good fencing, to preserve them, Dr. T. has had his trees annually pruned and thinned. This work of thinning and pruning demands a skilful, and if possible, a master's hand, and is found to improve the growth and quality of timber. Dr. Thackeray has been honoured with three gold medals by the society for the encouragement of arts, manufactures and commerce ; but his greatest pleasure must arise from his knowing, that he has improved and decorated a large district of country, and laid the foundation of an immense fortune for the future possessor of the estates he has so well husbanded.

* The late excellent Dr. Percival in his Medical Ethics, bears honourable testimony to this important fact in the following handsome terms :—"The establishment of fever-wards was proposed in 1774, and a few years afterwards carried into complete execution by my excellent and truly philanthropic friend, Dr. Haygarth ; whose life has been actively devoted to the promotion of science, the improvement of his profession, and the general good of mankind."

land; and from the earnestness with which he was wont to solicit the interference of his parliamentary friends, he no doubt contributed in a great degree to the late inquiry which the legislature have carried into effect with regard to the endowed schools of the kingdom in general. His desire to benefit the community was also shewn in the conspicuous part he took in the formation of savings banks, one of which was established at Bath, under his immediate superintendence. Throughout his life, Dr. Haygarth cultivated an extensive acquaintance with those who in any way contributed to the promotion of benevolent or scientific objects, and thus his name is associated with some of the most estimable characters of the day. Among his friends, well known for their intellectual endowments or moral worth, we may notice his kinsman, Mr. John Dawson, of Sedbergh, the celebrated mathematician; Dr. Percival, Dr. Aikin, and Dr. Falconer, of Bath. In his retirement from the active duties of his profession, Dr. H. became a considerable planter on a patrimonial estate in his native dale, to the inhabitants of which he ever preserved a strong attachment. With respect to the religious opinions of this respected individual, we find that after thus devoting his days to the interests of humanity, he built his hopes in another world (as the benevolent Howard had done) not on his own merits, but on the merits of his Saviour. He died on the 10th of June, 1827, at Lambridge-house, near Bath, aged 87.

THOMAS HARRISON, ESQ.—Although this celebrated architect is not a native of Chester, yet his long residence here, and the numerous monuments to his fame which the city exhibits, entitle him to particular notice. Mr. Harrison was born at Richmond, in Yorkshire, in the year 1744, and, having shewn a taste for drawing, went to Rome, under the patronage of Lord Dundas, about 1769. He remained there several years engaged in the study of architecture, and made some designs for the embellishment of the square of Santo Maria del Popolo; in consequence of which he had the honour of receiving from the hands of Pope Ganganelli, a gold and silver medal, and was also made a member of the academy of St. Luke, by an especial order for that purpose. Of this transaction the following particulars (being an extract of a letter from Rome, dated June 23, 1773, and afterwards printed) are not only illustrative of Mr. Harrison's merits, but also shew a great condescension in his Holiness, and likewise his love of justice towards an English artist. "Mr. Thomas Harrison, an English student in architecture, having contested for a premium that was to be given by the academy of St. Luke, and thinking injustice had been done him in the distribution of the premiums, applied to the pope, requesting permission that when the drawings that had obtained the premiums, were exhibited in the capitol, his likewise might be placed there, in order that the public might decide on the merits of the respective performances. The pope, who is ever ready to acts of justice, gave the necessary orders, and the consequence was, that the public were of one voice in favour of Mr. Harrison, which the pope being informed of, was graciously pleased to admit him to an audience, and, on seeing his drawing, presented him with two medals, the one of gold, the other of silver; and being convinced of the injustice the academy had done him, was pleased by the following rescript, to direct the said academy to elect him a member thereof:—'The public having joined in an universal approbation of the

drawing of Thomas Harrison, the English architect, exhibited in the capitol on the occasion of the late contest, and his Holiness being desirous of giving Mr. Harrison a testimony of his approbation, orders the prince of St. Luke's academy to elect the said Thomas Harrison an academic of merit in the said academy,'—which commands of the pope were immediately complied with, to the universal satisfaction of every impartial and disinterested judge." Upon leaving Rome, Mr. Harrison travelled through part of Italy and France, and returned to England in 1776, where he was soon after engaged in building a bridge over the Lune, at Lancaster, consisting of five arches, being the first level-bridge constructed in this country. Having settled at Lancaster, he designed and executed the extensive improvements and alterations to the castle of that place;* and afterwards gained a premium, and was appointed architect for re-building the gaol and county courts at Chester. This building, which is in the Grecian style of architecture, is noticed in the following manner by the celebrated M. Dupin, in his account of England:—"The sessions-house and the panoptic prison of Chester are united in the same building, which, most assuredly, is the handsomest of this kind that is to be seen in Europe. The interior arrangements are well contrived, and bespeak much regard for humanity; the architecture is equally simple and majestic." The armoury and the exchequer-buildings which form the wings of the superb county hall, at Chester, and also the chaste and unexampled propylea, or gateway before it, were built after designs furnished by Mr. Harrison; and the new bridge across the Dee, now in progress, formed of one arch of 200 feet span, is also from his design. This extraordinary piece of architecture, when completed, will have no parallel in Europe, the largest arch known to exist, being 25 feet span below its dimensions. In short, it is to his fertile genius Chester is indebted for all those splendid improvements in the immediate vicinage of the castle. In the report of the deputation from the city of London, appointed to visit the principal gaols of England, for the purpose of improving those of the metropolis, the gaol of the county of Chester, is distinguished as "in every respect, one of the best constructed gaols in the kingdom." The deputation consisted of four aldermen, accompanied by the town clerk, and Mr. Danes, the city architect; their report has since been published by order of the court of aldermen, and presented to the different counties, the gaols of which they visited. The following encomium by the celebrated Richard Cumberland, (*Observer*, vol. iv. p. 12.) written 40 or 50 years ago, is a flattering testimonial of the high repute in which Mr. Harrison was then held, and which may be apositely quoted on the present occasion:—"I reserve the mention of her (England's) architects, as a separate class, that I may for once break in upon the general rule by indulging myself in a prediction (upon which I am willing to stake all my credit with the reader) that when the modest genius of a Harrison shall be brought into fuller display, England will have to boast of a native architect which the brightest age of Greece would glory to acknowledge." England is indebted to Mr. Harrison for the possession of those valuable antiquities now known by the name of the Elgin marbles. When the earl of Elgin was appointed ambassador to the Porte, in 1799, Mr. Harrison, who was at that time in Scotland, designing

* I have seen an elegant poetical epistle, highly complimentary to the professional services of Mr. Harrison, at Lancaster, written by Mr. Bryan Waller.

a house for his lordship, strongly recommended him to endeavour to procure casts of all the remaining sculpture, &c. in Athens, but had not the least idea of the marbles themselves being removed. Since Mr. Harrison has resided in the neighbourhood of Chester, he has been engaged in several works of importance. Amongst others, a Greek Doric column, at Shrewsbury, in honour of Lord Hill, and one for the Marquis of Anglesey, erected near his Lordship's residence on the Straits of Menai; also the Triumphal Arch, at Holyhead, built to commemorate the King's landing there, as well as the Jubilee Tower upon Moel Famma, to commemorate the 50th year of George III. To which may be added, the Lyceum and St. Nicholas's Tower, in Liverpool; and the Theatre and Exchange Buildings, in Manchester. Mr. Harrison was likewise consulted in the formation of the Waterloo-bridge, for which purpose he was called up to London; and was said to be the first gentleman who proposed a grand quay on the banks of the Thames, to be built from Westminster bridge to that of Black Friars, afterwards warmly advocated by colonel Trench; although it has been said the first projector of this design was Adam Lee, belonging to the board of Works. Several years since, Mr. Harrison was honoured with a visit from count Woronzow, formerly ambassador from the court of Russia to England, who was passing through Chester, and expressed much admiration of the county-hall, gaol, and other buildings at the castle; and about eight years since, he was requested by the son of the above, count Michael Woronzow, to design a palace to be built in the Ukraine, upon the banks of the Dnieper, and a gateway for the triumphal entrance of the late emperor; and the count came to Chester several times to see and consult him respecting them. This design, which was approved of by count Woronzow, is in the Grecian style, and has a range of apartments on the principal floor, which form a vista of upwards of 500 feet in length. A tower or light-house more than 100 feet in height, for which Mr. Harrison made a design, has been built by count Woronzow, upon an eminence from whence it may be seen from the Black Sea. Besides Broomhall, in Fifeshire, the residence of the earl of Elgin, Mr. Harrison designed houses for several gentlemen in Scotland; amongst others, one for the late general Abercrombie, and one for Mr. Bruce, which is thus noticed in sir John Sinclair's statistical account of Scotland:—"The only house in the parish of Clackmannan that deserves the name of elegant, is just now finished by Mr. Bruce, of Kennet, from a beautiful design of Mr. Harrison, of Lancaster. Placed in one of the finest situations the country affords, it is also built in a style of superior elegance to most of the houses to be met with in Scotland, and exhibits in all its parts an equal attention to convenience and utility, as it does to elegance and taste." In private life Mr. Harrison was deservedly held in high estimation; and in his professional character had few equals. He closed his valuable life at his residence near the Castle, Chester, on the 29th of March, 1829, aged 85 years, leaving a widow and two daughters.

GRIFFITH ROWLANDS, Esq. (*Communicated by his pupil, Robert Roberts, Esq. surgeon, Chester.*) Mr. Rowlands was born at Llanfair issa, near Harlech, in the county of Merioneth, on the 9th day of April, 1761. After the usual school education, he was placed with a surgeon at Liverpool, from whence he proceeded to London to "walk" St. Bartholomew's Hospi-

tal; and soon afterwards being legally qualified, had the good fortune to succeed to the house surgeoncy. A wide field of medical and surgical practice was thus laid open to him, and he did not fail to turn to the best account the great advantages it afforded him. In short, so conspicuous were his assiduities and skill in the conduct of the difficult duties entrusted to him, as to attract the particular notice and lasting regard of the medical officers of that magnificent institution; men pre-eminently distinguished for their splendid abilities and extensive professional acquirements. This honourable office, for in those days the appointment was obtained by merit, rather than by favouritism, or by certain stipulated conditions as at present, he held for the space of two years; and then, as a mere matter of speculation, fixed upon Chester as the theatre of his future exertions. This part of his history is involved in some obscurity in reference to a few points of minor consideration, for whether he began to practise upon his own sole footing and responsibility, or entered into partnership with some better established practitioner, is a circumstance respecting which we cannot be perfectly clear; suffice it, however to observe, whichever was the case, his success was universally rapid, although at this time he had the singular misfortune, of being not only a young—but withal an unmarried man. In 1785 he was elected surgeon to the infirmary, and continued to perform all the functions connected with that situation, with the utmost diligence and reputation for an uninterrupted period of nearly 43 years. During this long interval of time many were the interesting cases that fell under his care; several of the most select of these he published, and in one he has detailed his success in the operation of sawing off the ends of the bone in a case of an ununited fracture of the thigh. An operation but then newly suggested, and which, I believe, he had the merit of being the third surgeon in Europe to undertake. Mr. Rowlands was a bold and dexterous operator, but in his concluding remarks upon this case, he adds, “Though I have several times performed all of the principal operations that occur in surgery, and very often many of them, I confess this far surpassed any thing I had ever undertaken or witnessed, I am doubtful as to the propriety of recommending it to be done by others.” Nevertheless he performed the same operation a second time, a few months only before his death; but, though most fairly completed, by reason of the constitutional peculiarity of the patient, no union of the broken bone followed. He also gave in the *Medico-Physical Transactions of London*, (a periodical to which he contributed in earlier days) a description of a retractor and saw, of his own invention; indeed his mechanical ingenuity in devising ways and means to assist the inefficient resources of nature, was very considerable, and in numerous instances proved extremely satisfactory in its application. He was a liberal promoter of every benevolent scheme for the public good. It was with him that the plan of the Chester Lying-in Charity, originated in 1798; and by his able illustrations of the utility of such an institution a sufficient fund was raised for establishing the present charity, which has ever since been supported by the voluntary contributions of the ladies of Chester and neighbourhood. He was appointed surgeon, and for many years remained the sole superintending accoucheur. In the exercise of his professional duties, when hurried by a press of engagements he was rather irritable; and generally speaking, stern in his external demeanour, both in his public and private capacity, to the pupils in attendance, as well as to those in authority under him; yet, it is deserving

of record, that in reality he was invariably kind and communicative to the enquiring and pains-taking student. Apart from the beds of the patients, he would readily dilate on any subject required, in a manner which it would be well if the physicians and surgeons of provincial hospitals would more frequently imitate. It were needless to expatiate more fully on his abilities as a surgeon, when the benefits he conferred thereby are still green in the memory of hundreds, and when it is borne in mind that the proud pre-eminence which he obtained almost at the commencement of his career was never forfeited throughout the course of a long professional life. To an address peculiarly pleasing, from a happy combination of the *Suaviter in modo*, with the *Fortitudo in re*; of respectfulness and ease, with a dignity and gravity of deportment which so admirably fitted him for the healing art, were united a quickness of penetration, a discriminating judgement, and above all, an integrity of character which secured for him general respect, confidence and esteem. He was subject to occasional severe attacks of gout, but his extremely temperate habits enabled him to continue to practise until a few days of his decease, which occurred on the 29th day of March, 1828, leaving a widow, and a family by a former marriage, of three sons and one daughter, to deplore his loss.

DANIEL ORRED, an eminent surgeon, was a native of this county, and a practitioner in Chester for upwards of sixty years. He entered the profession under the pupillage of a Mr. Cotgreave; and after a short absence in the metropolis, commenced practice in this city. In the year 1770, he was elected a surgeon of our Infirmary, an office which he sustained for a great number of years with extensive advantage to the institution and credit to himself. Mr. Orred was always esteemed a bold and successful operator, and in this line of his profession obtained high celebrity. When the late Sir Astley Cooper paid a visit to Chester, he called upon Mr. Orred, with whom he had an interview, and afterwards remarked to a physician who had accompanied him, "that he was a man of no ordinary talent." In the latter years of his life, there was a good deal of eccentricity in his character; he amassed a large fortune, the bulk of which descended to his nephew, a solicitor of Liverpool. He died in the month of June, 1826, aged 85, and was interred at Bebbington, in Wirral, where he had purchased a good deal of property.

S. FREEMAN, a surgeon of repute in the city, was a native of Hollin's Green, in Lancashire, where he was born in 1758; and having received a suitable education, at a proper age, was articled as a surgeon, to Mr. Orred. After a residence for a short time in London, he chose Chester as the theatre of his professional pursuits, where he obtained an extensive and respectable practice. On the 23rd of October, 1787, he was chosen a surgeon in our Infirmary, an appointment which he held till the 17th of June, 1806, when he was succeeded by his nephew, Mr. Bagnall, who was unanimously elected July 8, in the same year. Mr. Freeman was scrupulously attentive to the arduous duties of the institution, which he served with strict fidelity, and was no less prompt and punctual in all his professional engagements. He retired from practice several years before his demise, which happened on the 19th of February, 1829, and was interred at his native village in Lancashire.

Eccentric Characters.

In the lives of great and good men, wherever they have had their local habitation, there is much to instruct and benefit mankind ; and the esteem in which their acquirements and virtues are held, is a sufficient stimulation to excite imitation. Of this class are the few individuals, whose portraitures are above sketched. The notices following have reference to a different description of persons, whom I have denominated *eccentrics*, and whose character, though distinguished by a paucity of intellect, afford traits for innocent amusement : they are moreover individuals who have been, or are, well known in the city by the present generation, and such as have contributed not a little to the harmless mirth of thousands.

JOHNNY HUXLEY, an inoffensive idiot, though not a resident, was, during the greater part of his life a constant visitor in Chester ; scarcely a day passed that he did come from his hut at Figdale, near Eaton Hall, to pay his respects to his friends at the Cross, near which place he was mostly to be seen. Seated upon a bench, he would frequently amuse his auditory with singing a favourite hunting song, accompanying himself upon a child's fiddle. His figure was stout, and stature rather above the middle size, his countenance heavy, with a projecting under lip. He dressed in a slouched hat, tied under his chin, in which was generally a paper cockade of blue and yellow ; a bushy wig was seen beneath his hat resting upon his back. His coat was an old Eaton livery one, long, and buckled round the waist. His legs were encompassed with haybands, and such a *penchant* had he for these latter embellishments of his person, that when he had a pair of boots given to him, and which he had a great liking for, he would cut off the feet and tie on the legs with hay-bands. In his hand, in addition to his fiddle, he used to carry thongs and waxed ends, levying a tax of these articles upon most of the saddlers and shoe-makers, whose shops he passed in his perambulations through the city. Many eccentric stories are told of him, among which are the following :—On his return home one winter's night, about nine o'clock, he met near Eccleston, a person whom he knew from Chester ; accosting him, he enquired whether he was going to town, and being answered in the affirmative, he said “ I will go too, for I bought a half-penny worth of toffee from a woman in shoe-maker's-row, to-day, which was so good that I will go for another, and keep you company ;” nor would all the persuasion and entreaty to the contrary avail, Johnny would go for the toffee, but alas ! it was too late, the woman was gone to bed, and he had to trudge home at midnight alone, and without his relish. Another story is equally whimsical. Living as he did in the country, he heard much of setting and getting potatoes, which he determined to do as well as his neighbours, but having no land out

of doors he took up the floor of his house at night, and set the ground over with them, and in the morning he got them up, declaring, "he had a most excellent crop."—His name will be long mentioned among the eccentricities of our city, and none of them will be associated with more really good feeling; for during a long life which he spent in and about the city, never was a vice laid to his charge, or recollected to the prejudice of his memory, and nothing could more justly pourtray his character than the verse upon his tomb-stone, which is said to have been written by the late Earl Grosvenor, with whom he was a great favourite; it was as follows:—

" Poor Jack ! he lies beneath this rood,
And sure he must be blest,
For if he could do nothing good,
He meant to do his best.
Think on yourselves, ye guilty throng,
Who, knowing what is right, do wrong,

He died on the 12th of September, 1798, in the 68th year of his age, and lies in the church-yard of Eccleston.

THOMAS WALKER, better known as Tommy Walker, was a native of this city, and respectably connected. He was a venerable looking blind man, who some thirty or forty years since was a most remarkable character within our walls. He paraded the streets with a pole in his hand as tall as himself, and without even a dog to guide him, so well did he know, not only the streets, but the residence of most of the inhabitants. Suspended before him he had a square shallow box, on the front of which was printed in large capitals "STONE BLIND." Issuing out of this box, and placed against his breast, was a sort of sign board, on which was written, "circulating library of new books, lent out at 1d. per night." Within the box was his stock in trade; consisting of the "new books" advertised above, the titles of which were to be seen within, above and below the box, and which he repeated as he walked along in an audible voice. Many are now living who remember his oft-told tale of "No grumbling"—"The wife's complaint"—"Two of a trade can never agree"—"No more sops in the pan"—"The shepherd's holiday"—"The honest lawyer's prayer," &c. &c. The papers bearing these titles were of the most amusing description, and generally founded upon some incident connected either with himself, or the city. To some of the tradesmen he was a vast annoyance, as he did not fail, as he passed by their shops, to quote some one or other of the above *laconics* most applicable to the grudge he owed the shopkeepers. To such a pitch did he carry this with the late Alderman Broster, that when the worthy alderman was mayor, he attempted to put down poor Tommy, by declaring him a nuisance! In addition to the various works he had for sale, his own full-length portrait was a prominent commodity; one of these the author has lately seen, from which, and other resources, the above picture of him is drawn; but as it may be better to let Tommy give a short account of himself, I will transcribe his own tale, which is appended to his portrait—it runs as follows:—

"Thomas Walker was born in Chester, the 9th September, 1737, and followed the occupation of a tailor, till 1759. He then entered into Earl Grosvenor's company when the Cheshire Militia was first raised, and acquitted himself to the satisfaction of his officers; but, unfortunately, in 1783, in his own defence, he lost the sight of one eye, which, in six weeks, deprived

him of the other. Since that time he has had recourse to selling ballads, tales, &c. He is the person who disposes of this portrait, from whom you hear —No GRUMBLING." By these means he obtained a tolerably good living until his death, which was an untimely one, being drowned in the Dee, near to the bridge, having, as was supposed, mistaken his way, and fallen over the low wall now standing on the right hand side of the road leading from Dee Mills to the Groves. This accident happened about thirty years ago, when he was probably near 80 years of age.

MRS. BIRCH.—A respectable female, whose intellects were disordered, was, about thirty years since, a most noisy personage in the streets, decrying "the Church," "the Dean and Chapter," "Peploe Ward," and "Masclie Taylor," intermixing her exclamations with "Golgotha," "Rotten skulls and bones," and such like expressions, to the great terror of children and amazement of grown people. Her dress and appearance were always clean, having a sufficiency for her maintenance; she lodged with a person in Crane-street, where she died.

SAMUEL GRICE, a dwarf-like individual, well known to every native living in his day, not more for the singularity of his appearance, than his good-humoured inoffensiveness. He was the son of a chimney-sweeper. In his infancy, it is said, he was what is termed, rickety, and hence the evident deformity of his limbs, and the padding of his walk. He was not bred to any trade, being unfit for one, but in his early life he filled up his time with nursing the children of his relations and their neighbours. Cow-lane and Gorst-stacks were the scene of all his labours, living during a very long life either with one relative or another in those neighbourhoods. His appearance, as has been observed, was singular, which peculiarity arose from his always wearing clothes much too large for him. He made a constant practice of begging his wearing apparel, and when told by any person that the garment he solicited would not fit him, his reply would be, "I'll make it do if you'll give it me;" and so he did, for if he had a coat given to him by a man ever so large, Sammy "made it do," and wore it. The breeches of a small man were *trowsers* upon Sammy, in which, with a long coat, a large pair of shoes, and a hat that would fit a caput much greater than his own, did he figure away, considering himself as smart as any beau. To such a pitch did he carry his begging and wearing clothes, that he had in use an old scarlet hunting coat of Sir W. W. Wynn's, and a large dragoon helmet at the same time, and perhaps at no period did he appear more grotesque, nor was he at any time more proud of his dress, though he afterwards shewed great partiality to a clerical hat, which he mounted on dismissing the helmet. He was particularly gratified on it being proposed to him to sit for his likeness, and when that was done, and it was exposed in the shop windows, he was delighted to talk of it. He is represented with a bag in his hand, which, during the latter years of his life he always carried, for the double purpose of carrying vent-pegs (made by his brother) to sell to the brewers, and afterwards of taking home any little eatables he might meet with on his way. He was particularly good-humoured, but when wantonly teased, he would throw back his little stick with all the violence he was master of, though a blow from him would scarcely have been felt by a child, so enfeebled and like one was he

himself. Children of a larger growth would sometimes offer coarse jokes to him, which he met by a retort not at all relishing to the offender, and which, in most cases, prevented a repetition of them. He constantly attended the Cathedral service on Sunday, and died on the 9th of March, 1821, at the advanced age of 77.—So long as the present generation lives, will he be remembered, and those who may have been fortunate enough to secure one of the likenesses taken by Mr. CRANE, will have a just representation of the face, make, figure, and true portraiture of poor little Sammy.

The following characteristic Epitaph was written soon after his death by a son of Mr. VENABLES, of the Blue Coat School:—

SAMMY GRICE'S EPITAPH,

Who died March 9th, 1821, aged 77.

'Scap'd from a world of ridicule and pains,
This verdant copse o'erlays the brief remains
Of Samuel Grice---a man of much renown,
Within the circle of his native town.
Long of that town was he the current jest,
And school-boys, struggled---*which could teaze him best.*
His pigmy stature, waddling gait, and phiz,
Oft furnish'd laughter to the vacant quiz;
Whilst they, who scann'd him with a feeling eye,
Pity'd his harmless nature, and pass'd by.
On Sundays, in his scarlet coat attir'd,
And reverend hat, by waggish folk admir'd,
Sure as the Sabbath came its weekly round,
At church the harmless idiot was found;
When done, though pleased his finery to view,
He reach'd his hand to welcome all he knew,
And with a smile, that spoke his welcome true,
He'd gabble forth, "*Well Sir! how do? how do?*"
But, ah! the *ruthless tapster death*,
Hath plac'd a vent-peg* on poor Sammy's breath.
And all his little virtues could not save
His little body from this little grave:
His soul they can---his soul to mercy given,
I trust, thro' mercy, now hath rest in Heaven,
Where they who hold *deformity* a jest,
Will ne'er intrude to mar his heavenly rest.

ANN THORNTON, alias "SNUFFY NAN," was on the pavé as a remarkable character for several years. It is said she was in her youth highly respectable, but marrying a soldier, whose fortunes she followed, became in her latter days a prey to intoxicating liquors, and all the ills that follow that evil propensity. She obtained the cognomen of "Snuffy Nan," from the profusion of the article pointed at, and her countenance (a haggard one) clearly shewed the love of snuff. She wore a soldier's jacket, and got her livelihood by carrying water, and attending the jaggars for the purpose of getting in coals. A good portrait was published during her life time by Mr. Burt. It represents her in the act of throwing a stone at some mischievous boys, the plague of her life, who had just called out "Snuffy Nan." The rows she created on such occasions, which were very frequent, will long be remembered. The epitaph, written also by a son of Mr. Venables, of the Blue Coat School, is eminently descriptive of her character.

* He was employed by his brother Thomas in vending vent-pegs and skewers amongst the butchers and brewers, in Chester, an occupation fully adequate to the poor fellow's ability.

TO THE MEMORY

Of the ill-used female, called in derision, "Snuffy Nan."

O'ercome by labour, poverty and years,
Tir'd of the world, and never-ceasing jeers,
Poor **SNUFFY NAN**---so call'd by scoffing boys---
Hath found a lasting refuge from their cries :
By death releas'd---no more the **JAGGERS' SLAVE**,
She calmly sleeps within this lowly grave.
'Midst all her woes, and she had woes enough,
Her only comfort was a *pinch of snuff*;
But e'en that simple, solitary joy,
(With grief I write) was not without alloy.
Since from the free indulgence of her nose,
A daily---hourly persecution rose.
Where'er she went, an odious, galling name
Was still employ'd, her passions to inflame.
Reader ! 'twas she, whom thou perhaps, hast seen,
In garb at once fantastical and mean ;
With threat'ning arm, and slip-shod feet pursue
Some graceless imp that from her vengeance flew.
Her rage subsided, and her breath nigh spent,
Oft have I heard her murmur as she went,
The countless wrongs and unrelenting scorn,
Which many a day the widow'd wretch had borne,
You heartless pack ! the city's deep disgrace,
Who laugh to scorn the mis'ries of your race ;
Forbear your maker's anger to provoke,
Lest you, in turn, become the standard joke,
What ! shall the objects of his chast'ning hand,
Become the victims of a graceless band ?
Repent ! for shame ! and supplicate your God,
To avert from you affliction's heavy rod,
That he, in mercy, may withhold from you
The grievous punishment to scoffers due ;
And let your earnest, pious hope be this,
That *Snuffy Nan* enjoys eternal bliss.

CAPTAIN ROBERT THOMAS, a character well known, and many years a resident of the city. He was very respectably connected, being intimately allied to the family of Coedhelen, in Carnarvonshire ; and at an early period of life bore his majesty's commission as a lieutenant in the army. For eight years he was stationed with his regiment in British America, and after his return to England, accompanied the duke of York's army to the continent, at the beginning of the late French war, and shared the dangers and hardships of that ill-fated expedition. From this period, Mr. Thomas (who always tenaciously assumed the rank and name of *captain*) became disturbed in his intellect, and was ever afterwards distinguished by a wildness of manners, and occasional violence of temper, which sufficiently indicated that his faculties had suffered injury. There were, however, a quickness in his apprehension, and shrewdness in his observations, that bespoke a vigorous mind, even when in ruins, and was peculiarly illustrative of the sentiment of our great poet, "strong sense to madness nearly is allied." The choice topic of his converse, was military affairs, in which he never failed to magnify his own valourous exploits ; and while describing the mortal thrusts he had given to the enemy on the field of battle, constantly suited the action to the word, by brandishing in the air a short truncheon, resembling a field marshal's baton, which he mostly carried about him. The captain was an enthusiastic admirer of the late duke of York, of whom he would familiarly converse with great pleasure, as his intimate friend ; never forgetting to notice, that he himself was a great

favourite with his Royal Highness. There was nothing that so much excited his choler as to have his courage suspected ; and this being known to almost every truant in the city, he was not unfrequently saluted with the cry of " Captain, you're a coward," which in an instant raised his indignation to such a pitch, that all who came near him at the time, were in danger of a clumsy salute from his cudgel. His eye was remarkably piercing, and upon these occasions, strongly spoke the violence of his feelings ; but there was no trait in his character that betrayed cold-bloodedness or malignity of disposition. In retaliation of a real or supposed insult, the captain could wield the weapons of irony and sarcasm most effectively. The Red Lion, in Northgate-street was the house most generally frequented by him, to which he was an excellent customer, particularly after the periodical times when he received his half-pay, with which he made very free as long as it lasted, and then run on tick till the golden season returned. It seems the landlady was mighty civil with her guest for some time after quarter-day, but treated him but roughly as his score lengthened ; and upon one occasion insisted upon his leaving the house. The captain was indignant at this rude treatment, and immediately left the house, but not before he had declared with an oath, to one of his companions, he would make his hostess glad to call him in again. Hastening to the front of the house, he commenced an audible harangue to a groupe of neighbours and passengers he had collected around him, observing aloud, that the character of Miss B. his landlady's daughter, had been vilely traduced, and declared his readiness to vindicate her virtue. This procedure exactly answered the captain's design ; for some reports having been circulated unfavourable to the young lady, and the mother being made acquainted with the subject of his oration, and unwilling to entrust her vindication to the indiscreet captain, sallied out of the house, and laying hold of him, hurried him into his quarters, where she entreated him to remain.—Having formerly moved in the highest circles, and still retaining a high feeling of consequence, the captain made frequent incursions into the coffee-room of the Royal Hotel, and after some laconic remark, usually marched out again with great dignity. Upon one of these occasions, he bounced in, when there was a good deal of company present, among whom was the late Admiral Bowen, then a resident of the city, who was telling a story not of a very credible kind, for which he was somewhat noted. The captain having heard the conclusion, placed himself exactly opposite the admiral, and stamping with his foot, pointed his hand, in which was his truncheon, directly towards him, and, in an audible theatrical tone and attitude, cried out, "*I said in my haste, all men are liars.*" The gentlemen burst into a loud fit of laughter, and Mr. Thomas marched out of the room with as much exultation as if he had obtained a splendid military victory. Another instance that may be adduced of Mr. Thomas's penchant for, and capability of sarcasm, may be traced in a scene that occurred in the coffee-room, between him and Major Henchman, who was a person well known in Chester. It seems the Major and a strange gentleman meeting at the hotel, a dispute arose between them, which led to high words, and finally terminated in a combat, *à la Crib*. Public expectation was excited, that this would be succeeded by a more *gentlemanly* rencontre, but nothing of the kind followed, and it was rumoured, but whether true or false I have no means of knowing, that the major had shewn the white feather. Either immediately before or after this incident, the captain had

received what he conceived a *slight* from the major, an offence which he generally remembered with great tenacity. Probably primed with a feeling of retaliation, one evening, when he knew the major was in the coffee-room, he stalked into it, and found the latter sitting at a table engaged with three other gentlemen in a game at whist. Marching up to his object with a firm and consequential step, and as usual, stretching out his baton to the major, he commanded the instant attention of all present, by addressing him in a stentorian voice :—"Major ! the wicked world say you're a coward ! You that have borne his Majesty's commission in the army ! O shame ! shame ! to stigmatize an officer in his Majesty's service as a coward ! what a wicked world we live in !" Having delivered his message, he marched out of the room, with the same state he had marched into it. What the sensations of the company were, it is not my business to say, but the major betrayed evident signs of uneasiness, wiping the sweat from his brow with great agitation. —The captain was very fond of having his hair powdered, and knowing this propensity, the waggish barbers and others, not satisfied with giving him a fair quantity of flour on the head, very frequently covered his back down to the waist, and in this state he paraded the streets, exulting in his acquaintance with the Duke of York, his own valour, and other etceteras. In person he was rather below the middle size, was hard featured, and stooped in his gait. His dress was a short jacket, similar to the shooting jacket, or hunting coat of the present day, over which, in winter, he wore a spenser, and trowsers just below the calves of his legs ; his stockings were generally striped blue and white, which then were outré, but are now becoming very fashionable. He was fond of a pipe, and was often seen with a short one, quaffing his Virginia as he walked along the streets, the middle of which he always choose as his path ; in his hat he frequently had a cockade, and then, if he was in a good humour would tell his story of the hardships he had endured, the battles he had won, and the honours he was entitled to. The irregularities of his life, and the low company with which he associated, subjected him frequently to the clutches of the sheriff's officer, and the debtors' department at the Northgate was often his residence. In the last thirteen years of his life, he was a constant inmate of that receptacle, not from any disinclination on the part of his relations to assist him, but with the view of securing him from mischief and danger. In the year 1818, he was visited with a paralytic stroke, but lived eight years after. He died in June, 1826, in the 73rd year of his age.

THOMAS ROWLEY.—Better known as Tommy Rowley, was the son of a physician, who practised in this city, but as his name has not been handed down, it is to be conjectured that he was not eminent in his profession ; indeed it appears, that he decamped to America, whilst Tommy was a minor, leaving his wife and son behind him. Within the sphere of his acquaintance he was a most eccentric individual, but by no means a public character. He was bred to the law, but failing in a cause on his outset, he ceased to practice, and became a writer, in which occupation he was unrivalled. Disdaining to decline in his native city, he repaired to London, where he earned a tolerable subsistence in that capacity. He, according to his own account, used to enjoy himself in the Parks on a Sunday, where he happened to be walking on one occasion with a heavy purse and a light heart, when he perceived his late

Majesty Geo. III. approaching in his carriage. Resolving to pay his respects to the King, he stood still as his Majesty passed, presented his silver headed cane *à la militaire*, with all the gravity and order of a soldier, standing erect till the royal carriage had passed by. The king struck with the circumstance, enquired, "What's that man, what's that man?" and being answered that "he probably belonged to some volunteer corps;" the king replied in his usual and peculiar manner, "Funny man, very funny man." This story, known only from his own representation was often turned against him, by interpreting it into an attempt to shoot the king, which annoyed him greatly. Tommy married, and came to reside at Gresford, from which place his wife eloped with a Jew. He afterwards located himself in various provincial towns, where from the peculiarity of his dress, being a beau of the old school, he attracted much notice. He finally settled in his native city, where he spent the last twenty years of his life, a short part of which period he had the misfortune to be an inmate of the work-house; he however ultimately got employed in the office of the late Mr. F. Barker, where he continued till his death, which happened in 1829, at the age of 83. His eccentricities were peculiar, and such as we shall not further notice, than by saying that their recital is "more honoured in the breach than the observance."

CHARLES FORSTER.—Known in his day as "Lame Charley," was a lame, (and whilst let alone by the boys,) inoffensive individual. He got his living by selling shoe ties about the streets, during which perambulation he was too frequently attacked by wicked lads, calling out "chicken fist." This epithet associated itself with his decrepid hand, (in which he carried the shoe ties) and enraged him much. The persecution of the boys became so annoying and his aggravation so great, at best having a weak mind, that it amounted to frenzy, and at last to such a pitch did he arrive, that the moment he was called to, he would take up the first stone within his reach, and follow the culprit at his best speed, not caring on whose pate the stone alighted, or through what window it passed; upon one occasion, a large stone, which he intended for his tormentors, struck a young man standing at Mr. Massey's shop-door in Bridge-street, upon the temples, which brought him to the ground, and put his life in danger; and upon another, a similar missile was dashed through the glass-shop window of Mr. Lancaster, in Eastgate-street, which made dreadful havoc among the brittle ware. Nay, so dangerous did he at last become, that it was deemed proper to place him in the work-house, where he died, 29th of November, 1825.

EDWARD HALL.—Now alive, and better known as "Teddy Hall," is a native of this city, and respectably connected. He was born on the 2nd October, 1774, and is consequently near 57 years of age, which he does not look, though inured to every deprivation and hardship, living upon the most scanty supply of victuals, and never knowing what it is to enter a bed; his only night abode being in the area opposite the retorts at the gas-works, where he sleeps upon a bench. Neddy has been *upon the town* as a remarkable character since the election of 1812. Had that contest never occurred, he would perhaps have continued a respectable character, following his trade as a joiner, to the comfort of himself and his friends; but during that heated and memorable contest he figured away in a most conspicuous manner, to the

great discomfort, it is presumed, of Sir Richard Brooke, who it will be remembered opposed Mr. Egerton, in whose interest Edward arrayed himself, and rendered himself notorious by a ludicrous scheme of annoyance to Sir Richard. He fixed upon the top of a long poll a dancing doll, which he held exactly opposite to Sir R. and whilst pulling the string, bawled out from the commencement of the poll to the close of it each day, "Egerton and no Grosvenor, Townshend and no Brooke; here's your Teddy;" and hence the cognomen by which at this day he is known, and long after he is no more will be remembered. His excitement and drunkenness during several weeks before and after this time, destroyed those energies which before had possession of him, and from that period up to this, has he been walking the streets, a picture for those who have participated with better success in all our party feuds to look upon with pity. He was educated in the King's School, and judging from his flights when in a state of intoxication, which too frequently occurs, he imbibed in his youth both moral and religious precepts, fitted for a better career. His quotations on these occasions from the Old and New Testament, Shakespeare, &c. &c. are most apt, and prove that in his youth he read with more attention than boys in his station generally do. In his opposition to the Grosvenors "Teddy" has been consistent, and to use his own expression, "firm, steadfast, immovable." The Egerton cause is, he says, the "Alpha and Omega" with him, but he will sometimes with Cardinal Wolsey ejaculate, "Had I served my God with half the zeal, he would not in my old age have thus forsaken me." He has however, no great cause for complaint in this particular. This sketch might be carried to a much greater length, but as it is not within my plan to extend it, I shall conclude by giving a characteristic anecdote of him, confirmatory of what has been advanced as to his application of religious knowledge. Since he slept at the gas works, a friend of his, thinking that he must be starved at night, sleeping as he did during an inclement winter without covering, offered him what would answer the purpose of a bed and covering; he called for it, and upon placing it upon his shoulder, he said, "Eh, Mr. J. eh, Mr. J. you're very good, for you say to poor Ted, 'Take up thy bed and walk!'" Such is an outline of Teddy Hall, who we hope may long live to say, "Here's you're Teddy."

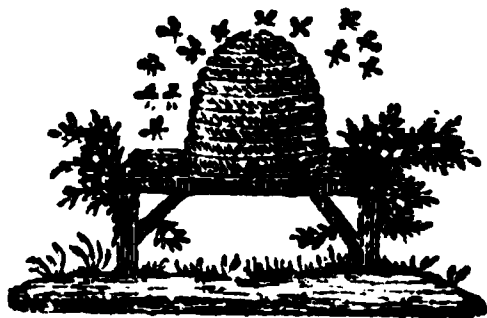
JACKY ADAMS.—This individual, while he may be considered a little removed from the state of idiotism, is not over sharp in his intellects; of an inoffensive temper, and quite free from all mischievous propensities. From his boyhood, he has taken peculiar delight in doing little offices about St. Oswald's church, and for many years was employed as grave-digger, bellows-blower to the organist, and bell-toller at the Cathedral; while he was engaged in the former occupation, if any persons joked him to vexation, his usual weapon of retaliation was, to tell them, "he knew how long a grave they would take." In early life, Jacky was amazingly strong and athletic, and has been known to hoist as heavy a weight as any two or three ordinary men could do; but there was another feat of which he appeared more proud, namely,—that he could swallow a quart of ale at a draught. In all the local political contests that have occurred in Chester, during the last twenty years, the house of Eaton has not had a more steady and decided friend than Jacky Adams; and it may be fairly doubted whether the best estate in Cheshire could have drawn him from his favourite colours. In the memorable contest

of 1812, he presented himself in the tally-box of General Grosvenor, when Mr. Cross, counsel for the opposite party, to whom it had been represented that he was *non compos mentis*, objected to his vote, and entered into a severe examination on that point. Among other questions put to the ardent partizan, was this: "How many fingers have you upon your hand?" Jackey replied most audibly, "Three, Sir." The wily advocate now thought he had fully succeeded in his object, and addressing the assessor, said, I am sure, Sir, you will not allow this poor maniac's vote to be received, who cannot count the fingers upon his hand. When Mr. Cross had concluded his harangue, and apparently expecting the assessor to admit his objection, Jackey, with peculiar archness, held up his right hand, and cried out, "Here, Mr. Cross, do you count my fingers, I can only make them into three." The fact was as stated by him, for he had lost the fore finger of his right hand, and he was ultimately permitted to poll. In the contest of 1826, poor Jackey was labouring under an affliction, of which he has ever since been the subject, that disabled him from walking to the hustings, and he was brought in a sedan to give his vote to Lord Belgrave and the Hon. Robert Grosvenor. But nothing can more forcibly illustrate his zeal for the house of Eaton than this fact, that while in extreme indigence which gave him the strongest claim upon public charity, he actually objected to parochial relief, for no other reason, than that it would deprive him of the power to give the friends of that house a vote. There is one other anecdote I wish to relate of this harmless individual, with a view of shewing his honest simplicity, and certainly with no design of giving offence. A reputable gentleman of the city, who was well-known to Jackey, and who had been educated at the King's school, where the latter was a notorious character to every youth there, was called, like other youths, by his christian name. His name was *Joseph*, but by familiar licence, reduced to *Joey*. By the latter cognomen only he was recognized by Adams, who continued this appellation both personally, and when speaking of him, after he had grown up, and sustained a high and honourable station in society. The impropriety of this term, so applied, was represented to the poor fellow, who could not easily be brought to comprehend the force of the objection. As the condition, however, of a more decorous address, a pair of small-clothes was presented to Jackey; but such was the strength of his early associations, and such the honesty of his disposition, that in about three weeks afterwards he waited upon his benefactor with his present, saying, "Here, *Joey*, I have brought the breeches back; for I cannot for my life think on to call you *Mister*." As hinted above, John Adams is still living in George's-street, but has for many years been confined to his room under a very heavy affliction. He is approaching the age of sixty.

EDWARD JONES, (better known as *Neddy Baugh*) still living, is a flying stationer of no mean distinction and notoriety; and whose stentorian voice when crying, "Monk's correct list of all the *terrible* high-bred cattle," places him in the front rank of his profession. Apart from his calling, Neddy is in appearance a character; and notwithstanding that he sometimes pays his devoirs to the jolly god, he, unlike many of his grade, is never insolent and abusive to any, and hence the good feeling that generally prevails towards him. No description can adequately convey a true picture of his *tout ensemble*;

his wooden leg, stick, and pipe, his hat awry, his greasy looking face, and dark hair, hanging "like candles sixteen to the pound," present a most grotesque figure; but unless he be seen when half seas over, figuring away in the height of his glory, announcing some "dreadful murder," or "*mal-lancholy* shipwreck," the fullness of his character is not developed. So far as graphic skill extends, the excellent full-length wood cut likeness of him which was distributed as a specimen of their powers by some artists, who visited this city about a year and a half ago, is valuable as a portrait of this individual.

WILLIAM PANTON, commonly called *Billy Panton*, a well-known character. He professed to be a "Mad doctor," and had occasionally some unfortunate lunatics under his charge; but no more of him need be said, than that he was very uncouth in his appearance, coarse and offensive in his manners, and lamentably profane and irreligious. If he himself might with truth be placed among the wretched class of beings he sometimes had charge of, it would be the best apology that could be offered for his general conduct. Though very respectably connected, he bore the constant appearance of filth and poverty. He died in 1827, at the age of 58 years.



Political History of the City of Chester.

WHILE the feudal system continued to prevail in England, local communities, in various districts of the country, were mostly subject to the controul of the great barons, who exercised a kind of demi-regal authority over them, and left the people no choice but submission to their arbitrary mandates. When this system, however, fell into disuse, and the principles of freedom became better understood, a more unrestricted exercise of civil and political rights followed. This favourable result was particularly developed in the privilege conceded to the people, of choosing their representatives to the great council of the nation, to whom was confided the authority of making the laws. In the reign of Henry VI. the boundary of this right was fixed on the basis upon which it at present stands. The most remarkable law which passed in this reign, was for the due election of members of parliament in counties. After the feudal system, the distinction of tenures was in some measure lost ; and every freeholder, as well as those who held of mesne lords, as the immediate tenants of the crown, were by degrees admitted to give their votes at elections. This extension of the elective franchise was indirectly confirmed by a law of Henry IV. which gave right to such a multitude of electors as was the occasion of great disorders. In the eighth and tenth of the Sixth Henry, therefore, laws were enacted limiting the electors to such as possessed forty shillings a year in land, free from all burdens within the county. This sum was equivalent to near twenty pounds a year of our present money ; and it were to be wished, that the spirit, as well as the letter of this law, had been maintained. The preamble of the statute is remarkable :—" Whereas the elections of knights have of late, in many counties of England, been made by outrages and excessive numbers of people, many of them of small substance and value, yet pretending to a right equal to the best knights and esquires ; whereby manslaughter, riots, batteries, and divisions among the gentlemen and other people of the same counties, shall very likely rise and be, unless due remedy be provided in this behalf," &c. We may learn from these expressions, what an important matter the election of parliament was now become in England : that assembly was beginning in this period to assume great authority : the commons had it much in their power to enforce the execution of the laws ; and if they failed of success in this particular, it proceeded less from any exorbitant power of the crown, than from the licentious spirit of the aristocracy, and perhaps from the rude education of the age, and their own ignorance of the advantages resulting from a regular administration of justice.

Chester, having been the metropolis of a little sovereignty, did not send members to parliament, until the lapse of more than three centuries after the privileges of the county palatine had been taken possession of by Henry III. It does not appear, however, that the English parliament had exercised the power of levying subsidies upon the city or county in the interval between this monarch's reign and the time of Henry VI. a period of two hundred years. In the reign of the latter sovereign, an attempt was made to infringe the privileges of the palatinate, by the parliament held at Leicester, which issued a commission for levying a subsidy in Cheshire, in common with the other counties. Upon information of this violation of their rights, the abbots, priors, and clergy, the barons, knights, esquires, and commons of the city and county, presented a petition to the king,* A. D. 1450, in which their claims to an exemption from the authority of parliament were set forth with becoming force and clearness. The prayer of their petition was allowed, and they were discharged of the levy of the subsidy.

Notwithstanding this acknowledgement of the exemption of the county and city from the levies of parliament, it appears, that in the time of Henry VIII. these exemptions had ceased to exist. For in the year 1541, the inhabitants of the county and city of Chester represented to the king, that though they were bound by the acts and statutes of the high courts of parliament, they had never had their knights and burgesses within the said court, and had consequently been oftentimes grieved by statutes derogatory to these ancient privileges; and further petitioned for the privilege of electing two knights for the county, and two burgesses for the city. Pursuant to this application, an act passed in the 34th and 35th Henry VIII. by which it was enacted, "That from the end of this present session, the said county palatine of Chester, shall have two knights for the said county palatine, and likewise two citizens to be burgesses for the city of Chester, to be elected and chosen by process to be awarded by the chancellor of England unto the chamberlain of Chester, his lieutenant or deputy for the time being; and also like process to be made by the said chamberlain, his lieutenant or deputy, to the said sheriff of the said county of Chester, and the said election to be made under like manner and form, to all intents, constructions, and purposes, as is used within the county palatine of Lancaster, or any county and city within this realm of England." The act further states, that the said knights and burgesses shall be returned by the sheriffs to the chancery of England, as any other sheriffs make return in like case, and shall be knights and burgesses of the high court of parliament, have like voice and authority, to all intents and purposes, and "shall and may take every such like liberties, dignities, privileges, wages, fees, and commodities, concerning this said court of parliament, to all intents, constructions, and purposes, as any other the knights and burgesses of the said court, shall, may, or ought to have, take, or enjoy." This act passed in the last parliament of king Hen. VIII. and the first parliament of his successor Edward VI. was called in 1546. It does not appear that the citizens of Chester availed themselves of the privilege of sending burgesses to this parliament, or at least I have not been able to find the names of any individuals who sustained that appointment; nor does there seem to have been more than one returned for the county,

* For a copy of this petition, and his Majesty's answer, see vol. i. p. 107--108.

namely, Thomas Holcroft.* In the second parliament of this prince, 7 Edward VI. there were two burgesses elected for the city, since which period representatives have been uniformly returned. To avoid confusion, and before I enter more particularly into the political History of the city, I shall here present the reader with a succinct list of its members from that period down to the present time.

* Although not strictly demanded by the nature of the work, I here subjoin a list of the members of parliament who have served for the county :---

EDWARD VI.

1. Thomas Holcroft; * * * * *
7. Sir Thomas Holcroft, Vale Royal; Sir Thomas Venables, Kinderton.

MARY.

1. Sir Thomas Holcroft, Vale Royal; Edw. Fytton, Gawsworth.
2. Sir Henry Delves, Doddington; Rich. Wilbraham, Woodhey.

PHILIP AND MARY.

1. and 2. Sir Richard Cotton, Combermere; Richard Wilbraham, Woodhey.
3. and 3. The same.
4. and 5. Richard Hough, Leighton; James Dune, Utkinton.

ELIZABETH.

1. William Brereton, Brereton; Sir Ralph Leycester, Toft.
2. Sir Thomas Venables, Kinderton; William Massey, Podington.
13. Thomas Calveley, Lea; Thomas Stanley, Alderley.
14. George Calveley, Lea; William Booth, Dunham.
27. Thomas Egerton, Solicitor-General; Hugh Cholmeley, Cholmeley.
28. Thomas Egerton, Solicitor-General; John Savage, Rock Savage.
31. Sir George Beeston, Beeston; John Savage, Rock Savage.
35. Thomas Holcroft, Vale Royal; John Done, Utkinton.
39. Thomas Holcroft, Vale Royal; Sir William Beeston, Beeston.
49. Thomas Holcroft, Vale Royal; Sir Peter Legh, Lyme.

JAMES I.

1. Sir Thomas Holcroft, Vale Royal; Sir Roger Aston, Aston.
12. Sir William Brereton, Brereton; * * * * *
18. Sir William Brereton, Brereton; Sir Richard Grosvenor, Eaton.
21. William Booth, Dunham Massey; William Brereton, Ashley.

CHARLES I.

1. Sir Robert Cholmondeley, Cholmondeley; Sir Anthony St. John.
1. Sir Richard Grosvenor, Eaton; Peter Daniel, Tabley.
3. Sir Richard Grosvenor, Eaton; Sir William Brereton, Handford.
45. Sir William Brereton, Handford; Sir Thomas Aston, Aston.
16. Peter Venables, Kinderton; Sir William Brereton, Handford; George Booth succeeded on the displacing one of the other members.

CHARLES II.---During the Usurpation.

5. Robert Duckenfield, Duckenfield; Henry Birkenhead, Bockford.
6. John Bradshaw, chief justice of Chester; Sir George Booth, Dunham Massey; Henry Brooke, Norton; John Crewe, Utkinton.
8. Sir George Booth, Dunham Massey; Thomas Marbury, Marbury; Richard Legh, Lyme; Peter Brooke, Mere.
11. John Bradshaw, chief justice of Chester; Richard Legh, Lyme.
42. Sir George Booth, Dunham Massey; Thomas Mainwaring, Over Peover.

After the Restoration.

12. William Lord Brereton, Leighlin; Peter Venables, Kinderton; Sir Foulk Lucy, on the death of Lord Brereton, 1664; Thomas Cholmondeley, Vale Royal, on the death of Peter Venables, 1669.
31. Henry Booth, Dunham Massey; Sir Philip Egerton, Oulton.
31. Henry Booth, Dunham Massey; Sir Robert Cotton, Combermere.
32. The same.

JAMES II.

1. Sir Philip Egerton, Oulton; Thomas Cholmondeley, Vale Royal.
12. Sir Robert Cotton, Combermere; John Mainwaring, Over Peover.

WILLIAM AND MARY.

2. John Mainwaring, Over Peover; Sir Robert Cotton, Combermere.
7. The same.
10. The same.
12. The same.
13. The same.

Representatives in Parliament for Chester City.

- 7 Edward VI.—Richard Sneyd, gent. ; Ralph Mainwaring, alderman.
 1 Mary.—Richard Sneyd, gent. ; Thomas Massey, gent.
 1 Mary.—Richard Sneyd ; William Aldersey.
 1 and 2 Ph. and Mary.—Richard Sneyd, recorder ; Thos. Massey, esq.
 2 and 3 Ph. and Mary.—The same.
 4 and 5 Ph. and Mary.—Thomas Gerard esq. ; Sir Laurence Smith, kt.
 1 Eliz.—Sir Thomas Venables, kt. ; William Alsecher.
 5 Eliz.—William Gerard, esq. ; John Yerworth, esq.
 13 Eliz.—William Gerard, esq. ; William Glasier, esq.
 14 Eliz.—The same.
 27 Eliz.—Richard Birkenhead, esq. ; Richard Bavand, alderman.
 28 Eliz.—Richard Birkenhead, esq. ; Peter Warburton, esq.
 31 Eliz.—The same.
 35 Eliz.—Richard Birkenhead, esq. ; Gilbert Gerard, esq.
 39 Eliz.—Peter Warburton, esq. ; William Brook, esq.
 43 Eliz.—Hugh Glasier, esq. ; Thomas Gamul, esq.
 1 Jac.—Thomas Lawton, recorder ; Hugh Glasier, esq. ; Hugh Glasier,
 died, Kenrick ap Evan chosen in his place
 12 Jac.—Edward Whitby, recorder ; John Bingley, merchant.

ANNE.

1. Sir George Warburton, Arley ; Sir Roger Mostyn, Beeston.
 4. Hon. Langham Booth ; John Crewe Offley, Crewe.
 7. The same.
 9. Sir George Warburton, Arley ; Charles Cholmondeley, Vale Royal.
 12. The same.

GEORGE I.

1. Sir George Warburton, Arley ; Hon. Langham Booth.
 6. Charles Cholmondeley, Vale Royal ; John Crewe, Crewe.

GEORGE II.

1. Charles Cholmondeley, Vale Royal ; Sir R. S. Cotton, Combermere.
 8. Charles Cholmondeley, Vale Royal ; John Crewe, jun.
 15. The same.
 21. The same. John Crewe dying, Charles Crewe, Esq. was elected in his stead.
 27. Charles Cholmondeley, Vale Royal ; Samuel Egerton, Tatton. Charles Cholmondeley dying April 18, 1756, Thomas Cholmondeley, of Vale Royal, was elected in his place.

GEORGE III.

1761. April 8. Thomas Cholmondeley, Vale Royal ; Samuel Egerton, Tatton.
 1768. March 29. Samuel Egerton, Tatton ; John Crewe, Crewe.
 1774. The same.
 1780. Sir R. S. Cotton, Combermere ; John Crewe, Crewe.
 1784. The same.
 1790. The same.
 1795. The same.
 1796. John Crewe, Crewe ; Thomas Cholmondeley, Vale Royal.
 1802. Thomas Cholmondeley, Vale Royal ; William Egerton, Tatton. Davies Davenport, of Capesthorpe, elected in the room of William Egerton, who died April 21, 1806.
 1806. Thomas Cholmondeley, Vale Royal ; Davies Davenport, Capesthorpe.
 1807. The same.
 1812. Davies Davenport, Capesthorpe ; William Egerton, Tatton.
 1818. The same.

GEORGE IV.

1820. The same.
 1826. The same.

WILLIAM IV.

1830. William Egerton, Tatton ; Viscount Belgrave.
 1831. Viscount Belgrave ; George Wilbraham, Delamere Lodge.

- 18 Jac.—Edward Whitby, recorder ; John Radclyffe, alderman.
 21 Jac.—Edward Whitby, recorder ; John Savage, esq.
 1 Car.—The same.
 1 Car.—Edward Whitby, recorder ; William Samuel, esq. ;
 3 Car.—Edward Whitby, recorder ; John Radclyffe, alderman.
 15 Car.—Sir Thomas Smith, kt. ; Robt. Brerewood, kt. and alderman.
 16 Car.—Sir Thomas Smith, kt. ; Francis Gamul, esq.
 William Edwards, John Radcliffe.
- 5 Car. II.—No burgesses.
 6 Car. II.—No burgesses.
 8 Car. II.—Edward Bradshaw.
 11 Car. II.—Jonathan Ridge, alderman ; John Griffith, alderman.
 12 Car. II.—John Radclyffe, recorder ; William Ince, esq.
 13 Car. II.—Sir Thomas Smith, kt. ; John Radclyffe, esq. both died ;
 and William Williams, esq. and Col. Robt. Werden, were
 substituted.
- 31 Car. II.—William Williams, esq. ; Sir Thos. Grosvenor, bart.
 31 Car. II.—The same.
 32 Car. II.—William Williams, esq. ; Roger Whitley, esq.
 1 Jac. II.—Sir Thos. Grosvenor, bart. ; Robert Werden, esq.
 4 Jac. II.—Roger Whitley, esq. ; George Mainwaring, esq.
 1 Will. and Mary.—Sir Thos. Grosvenor, bart. ; Richard Leving, esq.
 7 Will. III.—Sir Thos. Grosvenor, bart. ; Roger Whitley, esq. ; on whose
 death was substituted Thomas Cowper, esq.
- 10 Will. III.—Sir Thomas Grosvenor, bart. ; Peter Shakerley, esq.
 12 Will. III.—Sir Henry Bunbury, bart ; Peter Shakerley, esq.
 13 Will. III.—The same.
 1 Anne.—The same.
 4 Anne.—The same.
 7 Anne.—The same.
 9 Anne.—The same.
 12 Anne.—The same.
- 1 Geo. I.—Sir Henry Bunbury ; Sir Richard Grosvenor.
 8 Geo. I.—The same.
 1 Geo. II.—Sir Richard Grosvenor, bart. ; Thomas Grosvenor, esq. ; on
 whose deaths, July, 1732, and Jan. 1732-3, were substi-
 tuted Robt. Grosvenor, esq. and Sir Chas. Bunbury, bart.
 8 Geo. II.—Sir Robt. Grosvenor, bart. ; Sir Chas. Bunbury, bart.
 15 Geo. II.—The same. On the death of Sir Charles Bunbury, April,
 1742, was substituted Philip Henry Warburton.
 21 Geo. II.—Sir Robert Grosvenor, bart. ; Ph. H. Warburton, esq.
 27 Geo. II.—Sir Robert Grosvenor, bart. ; Richard Grosvenor, esq. On
 the death of Sir Robert Grosvenor, Aug. 1755, was established
 Thomas Grosvenor, esq.
- 1 Geo. III.—Thomas Grosvenor, esq. ; R. Wilbraham Bootle, esq.
 8 Geo. III.—The same.
 15 Geo. III.—The same.
 21 Geo. III.—The same.
 24 Geo. III.—The same.

- 39 Geo. III.—Thomas Grosvenor, esq. ; Robert Viscount Belgrave. On the death of Thos. Grosvenor, esq. 1795, was substituted Thomas Grosvenor, esq.
- 36 Geo. III.—Thomas Grosvenor, esq. ; Robt. Viscount Belgrave.
- 42 Geo. III.—The same. On Lord Belgrave's succession to the Earldom of Grosvenor, 1802, was substituted Richd. Earle Drax Grosvenor.
- 47 Geo. III.—Thomas Grosvenor, esq. ; Richard Earle Drax Grosvenor.
- 47 Geo. III.—Thomas Grosvenor, esq. ; John Egerton, esq.
- 53 Geo. III.—Thomas Grosvenor, esq. ; John Egerton, esq.
- 59 Geo. III.—Thomas Grosvenor, esq. ; Lord Viscount Belgrave.
- 1 Geo. IV.—The same.
- 7 Geo. IV.—Lord Viscount Belgrave ; Right Hon. Robt. Grosvenor.
- 1 William IV.—Rt. Hon. Robt. Grosvenor ; Sir Philip Grey Egerton.
- 1 William IV.—Hon. Robert Grosvenor ; F. Cunliffe Offley, esq.

The violent political conflicts that have existed in the city for the last twenty-five years, had so entirely severed and divided one part of the citizens from another, that any attempt to write a history of these transactions, so as to give satisfaction to all, even if undertaken by the most moderate, impartial, and candid man, would have been as futile as an attempt to reconcile contrarities. Recent occurrences, however, have materially tended to remove, or at least lessen, the asperities of party animosities. The magnanimous declaration of Lord Belgrave, made early in the year 1822, and since scrupulously acted upon, that the house of Eaton would offer only one candidate for the representation, and that no support or opposition should be given by that house to the second, has served to allay those feelings of political rancour long in mischievous operation, and indeed, extinguished one of the principal causes of dissention. And although truth will not allow me to say, that perfect harmony is restored between the corporation, and the party opposed to that body, yet the subdued feeling of hostility on the part of the latter, and the disposition to conciliate by the former, present a reasonable prospect of returning concord. This cheering state of things greatly reduces the difficulties of an author who undertakes the Political history of Chester, inasmuch as a candid relation of facts, and ingenuous reflections arising therefrom, are more likely to meet with a calm consideration, when the sharpness of party predilections are dying away, than when the bitterness of keen animosity is in full operation. It is difficult, however, and more than to be expected under any circumstances, for a writer to meet the views, and command the approbation of *all* ; for if he has any fixed opinions or principles of his own, these are sure to be at variance with those of *some* others ; and besides this, it is perhaps impossible at all times not to be biassed by his own partialities, or by some peculiar aspect in which he views his subject. Allowing for these discrepancies, inseparable from human nature, it is presumed this history will be found to be correct as to facts ; and if there be an occasional sentiment in which a portion of my readers cannot concur, there is nothing, I trust, which will deserve their opprobrium.

The political history of the city divides itself into two branches, the civic and parliamentary ; and although it would be desirable to treat them apart, they are so incorporated and connected, the circumstances of one being

often dependent upon those of the other, that it would almost be impossible. The various charters granted to the city have been already noticed ; but that which is considered the governing one, is that of Henry VII. in some clauses of which there is an ambiguity which has led to frequent litigation. It clearly appears that at different periods, different modes prevailed in the election of corporate officers. Thus about the year 1514, (eight years only after this charter was granted) some irregularities prevailed, for a commissioner was sent from the king to regulate sundry matters in the corporation, by whom it was ordered (*inter alia*) “ that they should, in the election of their mayor, as well as in other matters, conform to the directions of their charters.” We are not informed in what particulars there had been a deviation from the charters ; but King’s Vale Royal states, “ that in that year there were two mayors and four sheriffs, but that the first of them were not elected lawfully ; and so afterwards, another election being appointed, the others were chosen at Christmas.” It would seem that immediately after this period, the election of aldermen was annual ; for in the first corporation trial at Shrewsbury, the king against Amery, an office copy of an entry in the corporation books, was produced, containing the names of the twenty-four aldermen, from the Friday next after the feast of St. Dennis, 7th Henry VIII. (1516) *for one whole year next following*. How long after this time the popular mode of election continued is not ascertained, but it is very certain, it must have been of short duration ; for soon afterwards, the choice of common-councillors was made *by the mayor alone*, and then by the select body. This fact is shewn by a bye-law of the corporation, produced also on the above trial, dated 1554, whereby it was ordained, that from thenceforth “ All such persons as shall want of the number of the forty common councillors, shall be always chosen *by the mayor, aldermen, and the residue of the common-council, within their council-house at the pentice ; and not by the mayor only (as had been many times done for favour or affection) without consent of his brethren.*”

About the year 1572, a dispute (on what subject does not clearly appear) arose between the corporation and William Glazior, vice-chamberlain of the exchequer. On this occasion the deviation from the letter of the charter in the election of aldermen and common-council, became the subject of inquiry. Accordingly an information was brought in the court of exchequer against the mayor and one of the aldermen, on this account : they appeared to the information, and a day was given them to put in their answer. But there does not appear to have been any formal hearing of the case ; and the dispute was dismissed. This was considered a signal victory by the corporation, which that body does not appear to have sustained with becoming moderation, as may be collected from the lofty tone of an order they made upon this occasion.*

* Of this order the following is a copy:---“ 16 August, 1573.-- At an assembly holden in the common-hall, before Roger Lea, mayor---reciting the said order of the 1st of April last, and that chief matter in the information therein mentioned was, the mayor pretended, contrary to the effect of their charter, to elect aldermen and common council, viz. by the mayor and common council of the said city. where the charter limiteth the same to be by the mayor and citizens ; and the effect of which said answer was, that by sufficient warrant by the said charter and the usage the same were and lawfully might be chosen by the mayor and common-council ; and that the choice so to be made, was a better manner of chusing the said aldermen and common-council than the other. And whereas at this assembly, ----- Harry, alderman ; Richard Massey, Robert Brock, Thomas Lyneall, Thomas Burgess, Thomas Fletcher, Roger Byrne, and

In 1605, the office of recorder being vacant, King James I. by a letter addressed to the mayor, expressed his wish, or rather purpose, of having the appointment to that office transferred to the crown. This incident is worthy of observation, not merely because it is a developement of that plan of encroachment upon the liberty of corporations which was begun in this reign, and carried to such fatal lengths in the succeeding ones, but especially as an instance of patriotic resistance on the part of the corporation to arbitrary power. The reply to the king's demand is contained in the subjoined note.*

Anthony Hankey (among others) have, in open assembly, been charged that they should, contrary to their said first agreement and assent, and which was to send up the mayor and others, the citizens, with complaint to the right honourable the earl of Leicester, how they were, for their orderly proceedings in that manner of election, called to their trouble, and charged to answer their proceedings, before William Glazeor, his deputy in the exchequer; that their hands are subscribed to a certain petition directed to the said right honourable the earl of Leicester, requiring to have the choice of their aldermen and counsellors left to them, according to the words of the charter, viz. to the mayor and all the citizens; neither regarding the other clauses contained in the same charter, neither the continual usage, neither the utter subversion of the state of this city, if the same should take place contrary to their former order and agreement, to the hindrance and defacing of the mayor and city's proceedings. And whereas they have every of them been severally called to answer this their manner of contrary dealing, in causes of such importance, have every of them either so wilfully or simply answered, as the same council think, for that their untrue dealing contrary to their own assent, they and every of them worthy to be utterly disfranchised from the freedom of this city, and never hereafter to be received as worthy members to enjoy the benefit of the said liberties, especially to be of the council of this city; yet, nevertheless, the said mayor and council do protract and respite the final order to be taken for any of their final disfranchisements, until the assembly next to be holden within the said city, with contentment, that if in the mean time, they, or any of them, shall deliver to the mayor, in writing, subscribed with their names, a plain and simple declaration of the true cause that moved them so to subscribe the same, by whose procurement, and upon what occasion, acknowledging their offence in their so doing with submission, to the mayor and whole council, to stand to what punishment or fine the same shall take, touching their said misbehaviour, and with protestation never in the like, or in any thing that may tend to the prejudice of the liberties of this city, to be adviser or partaker with others: that then the mayor and council, upon such submission, and the trial, whether the same be simply or feigned, to stay their said disfranchisements, with putting them to such punishments, by fine or otherwise, as to the same mayor and council at that assembly, upon due consideration of the said submission, shall think most requisite and convenient."

* The copie of the Maier and Citizens of this citie their petition unto the King's Ma'tie to have their free election to make choise of a Recorder.

To the Kinge's moste excellent Majestie,

Moste dreade and most gracious sov'igne. In obedience to yo'r Ma'ties letters to us addressed, dated the xxij of November laste, but delivered firste the tenth of this inst. January, for the electinge of Hugh Mainwaringe unto the office of recorder within this citie, w'ch now is become voided by the death of our late recorder the vijth of this month. Wee, the maior, aldermen, and counsell of the said citie, unto whom the election belongeth, assembled ourselves together upon receipte of your highnes said letters. But forasmuch as by the said charter granted unto us by your noble progenitor Henry the vijth of blessed memorie, and latelie confirmed by your Ma'ie, noe person is eligible to that office, excepte he be one of the xxiiij aldermen, and none can be chosen an alderman, excepte he be first infranchised and made a free citizen amongst us. Such the said Hugh Mainwaring is not, nor ever came here in person to desyre the same, but is a mere stranger to us, and the state of this incorporation, for the observation of w'ch charter, and all other liberties granted to this citie we have taken our corporall oathes. Wee, therefore, your Ma'ties most humble and loyall subjectes, cannot without expresse breach of our oathes, and infringeinge of our liberties, elect the said Hughe Manwaringe to be our recorder; of wh'ch our iuste excuse we do most humbly beseeche your M'ties gracious acceptacon. And that your highnes will be pleased of your accustomed grace and clemencie to vouchsafe unto us our free election, and to give us leave to make choise of a man to that office, who is capable thereof by our charter, whereof at this tyme there are div'se amongst us whoe are already aldermen of this citie, and such as have heretofore donne good service to this corporation, and are evrie waie fit for the

In 1662, the commissioners for regulating the corporation, viz. Lord Brereton, Sir Peter Leycester, Sir Richard Grosvenor, and Sir Geoffrey Shackerley, turned out several aldermen and common-council-men, for refusing to take the oaths, prescribed by the act passed for that purpose, which was intended to remove from all offices of trust or authority, those who were suspected to be disaffected to the restoration. There can be no doubt but these rejected and disgraced members were of principles and dispositions unfavourable to the high and arbitrary notions which were then beginning to revive and prevail. Cavalier and Roundhead, high church and low church, tory and whig, the former the supporters, and the latter the opposers of arbitrary power, were now the distinguishing epithets of the opposite parties; and it may easily be supposed that the degraded corporators would embrace every opportunity of resenting the indignity offered them. It was in this state of public feeling that the first parliamentary contest that I am acquainted with took place, in the year 1672. The recorder, Mr. William Williams, and Colonel Werden, the latter of whom had been gentleman of the bed-chamber to the Duke of York, afterwards James II. were opponents, and the election terminated in favour of Werden. I have not been able to find any circumstantial account of this election, but it was probably very severe; and attended with fatal circumstances, eight men having been killed in the crowd, at the foot of the stairs of the common-hall, and the poll was adjourned to the Roodee. This circumstance is alluded to in Roger Whitley's petition to the lords justices, complaining of an alteration made by the mayor in the mode of elections; in which, contemplating a tedious poll, he says, "which may be tumultuary and dangerous, considering our great animosities, and the large morning draughts, on such occasions, which we are the more apprehensive of, when we call to mind that eight men lost their lives here in one morning, upon a parliamentary election."

It was probably owing to this circumstance, as well as the spirit of encroachment on the liberties of corporations, which was now beginning openly to manifest itself, that it was thought expedient to make a few alterations in the charter of Chester, and to abridge somewhat of the independence of the corporation. Accordingly, in the year 1676, a new charter was made, which, though it left the right of election prescribed in that of Henry VII. unaltered, introduced a difference in the following particulars:—

1. The mayor to be elected on the Friday after St. Dennis's day, or within one month next following.
2. The sheriffs to continue from the time of their election until the said Friday, and from thence till others are chosen in their room.
3. The mayor and sheriffs to take the oaths of office immediately after they are elected, if then present; and if not present, within one month next after such election, before the mayor and commonalty, and before the aldermen of the city, or four of them at least.
4. The mayor, aldermen, and all the officers, to take the oaths of allegiance and supremacy.

place, both for their learninge in the lawes, their knowledge and experience of our orders and liberties, and their sinceretie in the true religion. And wee, your Ma'ties moste loyall subjectes, according to our most bounden duties do, and will always upon the knees of our hartes praie to the almightie God, for the most happie and prosperous estate of your most excellent Ma'tie longe to reigne over us."

5. The recorder to be elected by the select body, and to be approved by the king.

6. The town-clerk to be approved by the king.

The strength of the opposite parties being nearly equal (as may be inferred from the violence of the contest in 1672), they seem to have agreed for a time to divide the representation. In 1678 and 1680, the recorder, William Williams, and Mr. Thomas Grosvenor (son of Sir Richard) were returned members. But the year following, when the alarm concerning a popish successor to the crown grew loud, the whigs seem to have had the advantage, and the recorder, and Colonel Roger Whitley were elected representatives. The latter gentleman was a zealous supporter of the royal cause at the restoration. When the king's friends rose in Cheshire, after Cromwell's death, under the command of Sir George Booth, and some other persons of distinction, Colonel Whitley brought a message from his majesty, with an account of the preparations he was making abroad, and that he was ready to come over as soon as opportunity served. Among other dispositions to favour this attempt, Mr. Whitley put a garrison into Hawarden castle. It may therefore be justly concluded, that he was in high favour with the king, who, in his grant to Whitley of the mastership of the hospital lands, calls him "our well-beloved and faithful servant." The despotic measures of the king, however, especially towards the conclusion of his reign, rendered Whitley a decided enemy to the measures of the court.

The apprehensions of the people lest the throne should be filled by a bigoted papist, which the Duke of York was known to be, put the commons in a bad humour with the king, and a bill of exclusion being brought in, was made the *sine qua non* of every pecuniary grant. As money could not be had without parliaments, nothing remained but to attempt to give the crown such a decisive sway in the choice of members, that opposition might become too feeble to counteract its views. It was imagined, and not without reason, that this might be effected by getting the power of nominating the officers of corporations into the king's hands, through the destruction of their ancient charters and constitutions; and the scheme was accordingly put in execution. Some boroughs were terrified, and others were cajoled, into a surrender of their charters; and against those who held out, informations in the nature of *quo warranto* were filed; and it was soon found, that the court was determined at any rate to accomplish its views. Upon this point, the corporation of Chester appear to have been divided in sentiment; and some of them proposed to meet the wishes of the court, by a voluntary surrender of their old charter. This was, however, effectually resisted by the majority, so that it became necessary to have recourse to measures of compulsion. An information being filed in Trinity term, 1683, an assembly was convened to consider whether any appearance should be entered; previous to which the anti-court party, had been trying their strength among the citizens, and had procured upwards of six hundred signatures to an engagement to defend the suit. When the point, however, came to be debated in the assembly, Street, the mayor, an opponent of the court, found a majority against him; he therefore dissolved the meeting, and retired, with the insignia of his office, the sword and mace. But the remaining members, continuing in the council-room, voted that no appearance should

be made to the information.* Street, indeed, endeavoured to supply this defect by an appearance under his private seal ; but this was rejected by the court of king's bench, as informal ; and in Hilary term following, judgment was given that the liberties should be seized into the King's hands until the court should further order, which was accordingly carried into execution by a writ of seizure. In the next term but one, a rule for final judgment was given, unless cause should be shewn within a week ; and on the total silence of the corporation, a farther rule for entry of that judgment was made accordingly ; but the entry was, through some neglect, omitted.

Active measures were now prosecuted by the friends of government to obtain a new charter ; and with this object, a number of persons, among whom was Thomas Grosvenor, were dispatched to London, where they succeeded in their purpose, and in this new charter, Sir Thomas was named the first mayor. The following paragraph, inserted in the appendix to the Shrewsbury trials (No. 6) contains an account of the reception of this document in the city :—

“Chester, March 7, 1684.—Yesterday was brought hither the new charter his Majesty hath been graciously pleased to grant unto this city, by Sir Thomas Grosvenor, our present mayor, accompanied with the high sheriff, our governor, Sir Philip Egerton, and a great many other gentlemen of the county. At their entrance into the liberties, they were met by the justices, the aldermen, and common-council, in their formalities, the militia, being in arms, and the twenty-four companies of tradesmen, making a guard from the Bars-gate to the Eastgate, and the battalion in garrison here, making a guard from the Eastgate to the Milk-stoops. Being come to Guildhall, amidst the loud and repeated acclamations of the people, the charter was read, and the mayor having made a very loyal speech, which met with the general applause, satisfaction, and thanks of the assembly, he and the rest of the officers were sworn : which done, the mayor came to the Cross, drank the king's health, and ordered the conduit to run with wine, and afterwards treated the whole company very splendidly, the great guns firing from the castle, with volleys of small shot, the music playing, and bells ringing, with other demonstrations of an universal joy.”

Notwithstanding that this announcement affects the entire satisfaction of the citizens on the grant of the new charter, yet this was far from being the case. The insidious designs of the king were but ill concealed, and numbers looked with appalling apprehensions to the ultimate issue. Before this business was quite completed, Charles II. died ; and the peaceable and undisputed accession of his brother to the throne, seemed to give every prospect of stability to the new arrangement. An election of members for the new parliament was of course to be held, and this was to take place two or three days after the charter had been received. No opposition being offered, Sir Thomas Grosvenor and Colonel Werden were returned for the city.

* This proceeding is thus related by Whitley, in his answer to an order of council, dated 27th July, 1693 :—“ We know (by sad experience and many fatal instances) that the petitioners acted as common-council-men in the reign of King Charles the Second, and contrary to their duties, and the established rules of our assemblies, in a tumultuous manner, after the mayor had dissolved an assembly, and retired with the sword and mace, they, with twenty-two more of their complices, voted to surrender their charter, though the quo warranto required only an appearance, and above six hundred of the most considerable citizens had subscribed a declaration to answer it accordingly.”

One of the first objects that engaged the attention of the new incorporators, was, to raise money for discharging the expence of obtaining their charter. The charges of all former charters had been paid by a rate levied on the citizens at large; but it was not deemed advisable to have recourse to that expedient on the present occasion. A portion of the city plate was therefore sold, some additional sums raised by mortgage of the revenues, and suffering encroachments on the city lands, and a donation of £20. was presented by colonel Warden.

From the first moment of ascending the throne, that weak and misguided prince, King James II. entertained the project of establishing popery in the kingdom; but the test laws, then with reason deemed the bulwarks of the state, stood in the way. Every effort was exerted to procure their repeal, and in order to engage the dissenters, from motives of self-interest, he published a declaration for a general liberty of conscience. The scheme was easily seen through; and while the dissenters thankfully accepted this respite from the persecution they had long groaned under, they remained firm in their opposition to the repeal of the tests. In order to try what royal interference would do towards procuring a parliament favourable to his wishes, the king, in 1687, made a progress through many of the principal towns and cities, and among others, came to Chester; when great preparations were made here to receive him.*

In the following year, matters began to draw towards a crisis with the unfortunate James. Still in hopes that the dissenters might be rendered favourable to his designs, he was resolved to tempt them with the offers of power and dignity. With this view a change was made in most of the corporations in the kingdom, and a like attempt was made in that of Chester. By the royal order the new charter was cancelled, an order of amoval was issued, and another sent of the same import, only altering the persons—but when the newly appointed officers were called upon to be sworn in, they unanimously refused it, and desired that the ancient charter might be restored.†

Thus, through the dismissal of the corporation created by Charles's charter, and the non-acceptance of that of James, the city was for near three months destitute of magistrates, and the election-day passed over without any officers being chosen. The king indeed was at that time busily employed in endeavouring to repair the wrong steps which were bringing inevitable ruin upon him, and particularly in replacing all the corporations on their former footing. Particular care seems to have been taken as to that of Chester, that no form might be wanting which could tend to give effect to the restoration of its ancient franchises. It was not only included in the general proclamation issued for that purpose, but a particular order of council was made for the restitution of the old charter, and the discharge of any officers who had, or might have, acted under the new ones; a warrant was directed to the crown-lawyers for preparing a charter of pardon and release of the judgements obtained against the former corporation, and for replacing them in their offices, which accordingly passed with all their necessary forms, 26th of October, 1688. From the landing of the Prince of Orange on the 5th of November,

* For an account of the king's reception here, see vol. ii. page 243.

† For an interesting relation of these proceedings, see an account by the Rev. Matthew Henry, vol. ii. page 155-6.

and while it was doubtful what turn the affairs of the kingdom would take, nothing was done in consequence of this charter. But on the 18th of that month, when matters carried a more decided aspect, the old corporation re-assumed their offices. In consequence of the Prince of Orange's requisition for electing members to meet in convention on the 22nd of January, 1688-9, colonel Whitley and alderman Mainwaring became candidates, and were returned without opposition.

The convention parliament, having completed the glorious work of settling the government upon the principles of the revolution, a general election was deemed advisable, which occurred in the month of March, 1690, and a fair trial of strength between the two parties, whig and tory, was resolved upon. The candidates were on one side, sir Thomas Grosvenor and Mr. Leving; and on the other, colonel Whitley and alderman Mainwaring. I have not been able to meet with any published account of this memorable contest, but as the votes were so nearly equally divided between the two, and as party differences ran very high, it is more than probable, it was carried on with great ardour, if not acrimony. Sir Thomas and Leving were the successful candidates, but Col. Whitley and Mr. Mainwaring presented a petition to the house of commons, complaining of an undue election. As the proceedings before the house of commons on this petition develope some curious particulars relative to the city franchises, and are but little known, I shall here lay the whole of them before my readers, as published at the time.

“HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Thursday, March 27, 2d W. and M.—A petition of Roger Whitley and George Mainwaring, esqrs. was read, thereby setting forth that they were, and stand duly elected for the city and county of the city of Chester, by the major part of the legal electors there; but that the sheriffs, not joining in the return, though Mr. Batho was willing (being one of the said sheriffs) so to do, and tendered an indenture signed by him and the electors for that purpose, to Mr. Partington, the other sheriff, who refused to join therein; but hath, to the apparent prejudice of the petitioners, returned sir Thomas Grosvenor, and Richard Leving, esq. by another indenture, without the other sheriff's joining therein, and without their being duly chosen; and praying the consideration of the premises, that the invalidity of the said pretended return may be examined, and the petitioners relieved.

“Wednesday, December 2, 2d W. and Mary.—Report from the committee of privileges and elections to whom was referred the matter touching the election of citizens to serve in this present parliament for the city of Chester. The poll was thus, viz.

For Sir Thomas Grosvenor..	498	For Mr. Whitley.....	484
Mr. Leving	494	Mr. Mainwaring	457

On behalf of the petitioners were called,

David Parry; who said 125 were made free after the teste of the writ, whereof 91 voted for the sitting members, and 23 or 25 voted for Mr. Whitley, and 22 voted for Mr. Mainwaring. Of the number that were so made free, were one Selby, an apprentice to one Waltham, and 16 others that were minors.

That Bryan Bolland testified, that there are in Chester several almsmen, who wear badges, and have £4 a year for their lives, whereof five voted for the petitioners, and eight for the sitting members; and that his son told him he had 10s. to make him free. That on the 18th of March he apprehended

the poll was only adjourned ; for that sheriff Batho said, " he adjourned it." And the next day 18 freemen came to vote for the petitioners, and were refused.

That Street, a witness testified, that he was present when the new freemen were made, and took notice of it to the petitioners, and advised them to get some made free for them ; but they denied it upon the case of Dartmouth. That several masters complained their apprentices were made free contrary to their knowledge ; that two (as he was told) had 12s. a piece to vote for the sitting members ; but confessed he was made free when a minor.

That Richard Cooper said, he went with three men to the Bear, where Sir Thomas Grosvenor came to them, ; and they told Sir Thomas, that they had a mind to be made free, but wanted money ; and he bid them go to Mr. Johnson, and let him look over their indentures ; that if their indentures were right, they should have money ; and that Mr. Johnson approved of their indentures, and they told him they had money, but he did not see them receive it. That Mr. Johnson voted for Sir Thomas Grosvenor, and Sir Thomas lodged in his house.

That John Orme said, he received of Johnson and one Bennet 12 or 13 shillings to make him free, and vote for Sir Thomas Grosvenor, and the other sitting member, Richard Leving, Esq.

That Samuel Davies said, he received of Johnson and Bennett 38s. to make him free, and vote for the sitting members.

And both Orme and Davies said, if they had not received that money, they would have voted for the petitioners.

That on behalf of the sitting members were called,

Thomas Wilcock ; who said, he had known all elections since the restoration, and that a son of a freeman may demand his freedom when capable of taking the oath of allegiance, viz. at sixteen years of age ; and that an apprentice has a right to his freedom if he comes out of his time before he is 21 years of age.

That Skelhorn said, he was mayor at the time of the election, and has known the several elections since the restoration, and never knew any freeman of Chester, young or old, rich or poor, denied his vote. That those who were made free, were either free born, or claimed by service ; and that none were ever put by their freedom that were capable of taking an oath. That the aforesaid almsmen were never refused their votes. That Alderman Street was active to bring aspersions on Sir Thomas Grosvenor, on purpose to keep him off from being a parliament man.

That William Wilson testified that the aforesaid almsmen always voted, and that minors, if free, always polled. That Mr. Sheriff Partington managed the poll, with the consent of the other sheriff, Batho ; and made two proclamations before closing the poll, and then closed the poll, the 18th of March. That next morning the books were cast up publicly, and the sitting members declared duly elected.

That Richard Hockenhull testified, that he saw all the proceedings, and he thought it a fair election. That the books were sealed up in the presence of Mr. sheriff Batho ; and that it was said Mr. Johnson was a tenant to one of the petitioners.

That upon the whole matter, the committee came to several resolutions, which being read at the table, were as follow, viz.

Resolved,—That it is the opinion of this committee, that sir Thomas Grosvenor, bart. is duly elected a citizen to serve in this present parliament for the city of Chester.

Resolved,—That it is the opinion of this committee, that Richard Leving, esq. is duly elected a citizen to serve in this present parliament for the city of Chester.

The first resolution being read a second time, and the question being put that the house do agree with the committee in the said resolution, the house divided,

Yeas.....186 | Noes.....185

So it was resolved in the affirmative.

The second resolution being read a second time, it was resolved that the house do agree with the committee in the said resolution."

The result of this contest, and the proceedings had in consequence of it, demonstrate how nearly balanced the interests of the opposite parties were in the city, and how equally divided also were the members of the house of commons on the merits of the election. But an epoch soon arrived, which is peculiarly distinguished in our civic history, and produced events, the propriety of which has led to a variety of opinions from that time to the present. Within little more than two years after the election, namely in Oct. 1692, colonel Whitley, one of the unsuccessful candidates, was chosen mayor. As there does not appear to have been any opposition to his election, it is probable that some kindly feeling existed at the time between him and the corporation; for had the latter even suspected that he would have altered the mode of electing the body, it is very unlikely they would have submitted to the appointment, especially as, even upon the supposition of a successful poll, the aldermen had the power of rejecting him. Whether his worship entertained an intention of introducing popular elections at the time of his entering upon office, or whether it arose afterwards, is not known; but before the expiration of his first year of office, his purpose was sufficiently manifested. Having taken some method of acquainting the people with the design, on the 5th of June, 1693, an address, subscribed by 406 citizens, was presented to his worship, praying that the election of aldermen and the common council might be made by the citizens at large. At the same time, a protest was entered against this petition, signed by seventy-eight of the opposite party. These were taken into consideration, at a meeting of the select body in the Pentice, and it was determined to comply with the prayer of the address, and measures were adopted for holding the election; which having in consequence taken place on the 15th of June, was protested against as irregular, by twenty-six of the opposite side. It appears, however, that the elections were conducted in the most peaceable and orderly manner.

It has been before stated, that there are some expressions in the charter of Henry VII. of an ambiguous nature, which have elicited different interpretations. Thus, while some have maintained, that the chief magistrate was bound to hold the elections of all corporate officers by the citizens at large, others have contended, that he MIGHT exercise that power, *if he were disposed*; and the latter construction seems to be sustained by the following

terms in the charter :—“ That the citizens and commonalty, their heirs and successors for ever, HAVE POWER to elect, make, and create,” &c. With regard to the twenty-four *aldermen*, it has been contended, that the charter requires their *annual* election ; while those who oppose this proposition maintain, that this document fixes their election for life, and adduce the words following in support of this construction :—“ Which twenty-four citizens (*aldermen*) so chosen and created, shall for ever henceforth have and bear the name of aldermen of the city of Chester.” When therefore colonel Whitley adopted annual popular elections, they were confined to the forty common councilmen ; and though he proposed the election of aldermen by the citizens, yet this was done only upon vacancies by death. In the former case he appears to have exercised a discretion vested in him by the charter, and in the latter, to have confined himself within a judicious limitation.

This proceeding, however, does not seem to have given satisfaction to some of the rejected common-councilmen. Nine of these moved for and obtained a mandamus from the court of King's-bench, directed to the mayor and citizens, for restoring them to their offices ; and at the same time preferred a petition to the queen and privy-council, (king William being absent in Germany) containing heavy complaints of Whitley's proceedings. With respect to the mandamus, a return being prepared, and a proposal made that the common seal should be affixed, two of the aldermen, who had keys of the chest where it was kept, proving refractory, and refusing to deliver them, the chest was broken open, and the seal procured. Though this return was deemed by the court of King's-bench to be informal, yet the mandamus was quashed, the court observing, that nine persons could not join in one mandamus, which here they had attempted to do. Whitley met the petition of the dismembered councilmen to the privy-council by a voluminous answer, which appeared so satisfactory to that honourable board, that they dismissed the petition of the complainants, and left them to seek their remedy by a course of legal proceeding ; to which, however, after their miscarriage in the King's-bench, they did not feel any inclination.

Colonel Whitley appears to have been extremely popular in the city, a circumstance which may be easily accounted for, by that line of conduct which he pursued, in introducing the common people to the exercise of a privilege, of which they are generally extremely fond. But besides this, he appears really to have been an estimable character, and to have acted with commendable propriety in his private and magisterial capacity. To such a man as this, it might seem ungracious to impute motives of personal ambition, for his retaining the office of chief magistrate for four successive years ; I would therefore rather refer his continuance in this station for so long a period, to a wish to render permanent that favourite system of elections he had introduced, and which I have no doubt, he considered necessary to the benefit of the city. It is somewhat remarkable, that in 1695, the third year of Colonel Whitley's mayoralty, at a general election for members, Sir Thomas Grosvenor and Mr. Leving were again returned without opposition, which proves a commendable moderation on the part of Mr. Whitley, a kindly feeling between the two parties, or a conscious sense of weakness on the part of the whigs. As I can have no means of knowing which of the above reasons operated upon this occasion, I must leave the solution of this point to the judgment or predilections of my reader.

After the expiration of the fourth year of Whitley's mayoralty, in October, 1696, his health being impaired, he signified his intention of resigning, which he actually did, on the day of election. But so zealous was he to perpetuate popular elections after his retirement, that a few days previous to the expiration of his office, he convened the corporation in the Pentice, and presented a set of regulations for the conduct of future elections of aldermen and common-council, which met with the unanimous concurrence of the assembly, and which are subjoined in the note below.*

Notwithstanding all the precautions taken by this active magistrate for securing to the city what he considered essential to their liberties, his system crumbled into dust immediately after his vacating the office of chief magistrate. He was succeeded by Mr. Peter Bennett, grocer, a man of directly opposite principles, who had been named a corporator in the charter of Charles II. He gave early intimation of a resolution to disturb that order of things which his predecessor had taken so much pains to establish. Instead, however, of abolishing at once the late mode of elections, he first contented himself by altering the day from the 15th of June to the 23rd of July; on which day, in the year 1697, an election appears to have been made by the

* Proceedings at an assembly holden in the city of Chester, in the inner pentice, on 15th October, 1696, by R. Whitley, Esq. mayor, John Williams, Esq. deputy-recorder, the aldermen and common-council of the same city. At which assembly, the proposals under-written, for the better governing and regulating the election of the aldermen and common-council of this city, were presented by Mr. Mayor, and read, and were unanimously approved, established, and confirmed.

1st. That the constant day for the annual election of the common-council be the 15th of June; but if it fall out to be on a Sunday, then the election to be on the 16th.

2d. That notice be given yearly at least two days before the day of election, and a general assembly summoned by the officers in their several districts, giving notice to the wardens and stewards of the several companies, and by posting up intimations thereof in the usual places, for the better reminding the freemen of it.

3d. That the assembly being met (about ten of the clock) it being the ancient privilege of the mayor to propose the question in public meetings, to avoid confusion in their proceedings, he shall read, or cause the town-clerk to read the names of the common-council (gradually) as they stand in the books for the year which is then expired.

4th. That upon the reading of each name then in being, he shall put the question, whether they will choose the same person to be of the common council for the year ensuing, or lay him aside; and in case the freemen do not agree in the point, then to be determined by a majority of votes.

5th. That then the vacancies (by death, refection, or otherwise) being examined, the mayor shall propose others, one by one, to supply the defects; but if any of these so proposed, be not approved of by the freemen, they may have liberty to name another in competition with him, and to determine which of them shall be elected by a poll.

6th. That if it should happen there be a vacancy of one or more, by death or otherwise, in the common-council, after the election, and before the expiration of the year; then it may be lawful for the mayor to summon, and hold a general assembly, in the usual manner, to supply those vacancies, till the 15th of June next ensuing, when there must be a new election for the whole number.

7th. That no common-councilman shall be put to any charge for his election or admission, except officers' fees, and to provide every one a bucket (to quench fire) at his coming in.

8th. That no common-councilman, thus duly chose by his fellow-citizens for the good government of the city, according to our charters, shall refuse to serve, or absent himself (but on necessary occasions) from their assemblies, upon pain of such fines as may be inflicted by ancient orders of assembly in that behalf.

9th. That if there be a vacancy of one or more aldermen, the mayor may, at any time, summon a general assembly, giving the usual notice as aforesaid; and if the person proposed by him to supply the defect be not approved of by the freemen, they may propose another in competition with him, and the choice to be decided by a poll.

10th. That every alderman, upon his admission in that quality and degree, do give a piece of plate to the city.

(All which were read, and approved, and confirmed.)

commonalty, since which period, the choice of aldermen and common-council has invariably been exercised by the select body. It was plainly perceived by the whig aldermen, that the alteration in the day of election, was only a preparatory step towards altering the entire system; and they now resolved to follow the example their opponents had formerly set them of laying their complaints before the privy council, which they accordingly did in a petition to that right hon. board, and signed by Roger Whitley and ten others.* To this petition Bennett put in an answer, in which he justified or excused himself on different grounds. Several different days were appointed for bringing the dispute to a hearing before the privy-council, but the business was delayed from time to time. It should seem that both parties were in town for this purpose in the January following, when another petition was sent in by the whig party, praying a time to be fixed. No hearing, however, eventually took place, and the dispute ended just where it had begun.

This termination of the appeal seems to have been conskled as a triumph by the friends of close elections; for if the privy council had not approved and sanctioned their proceedings, so neither had it censured or condemned them. A few days, therefore, before the expiration of Bennett's mayoralty, the corporation proceeded to pass a bye-law, repealing the regulations established by Whitley, the practice being deemed, "tumultuous and inconvenient, and contrary to the ancient custom." They then proceeded to supply the vacant places of aldermen (two members only dissenting and withdrawing themselves from the assembly), "whereupon," the entry states, "Sir Thomas Grosvenor, Bart. late one of the aldermen of this city, being called in before this house, declared, that he had neglected to subscribe the association according to the direction of a late act of parliament, entitled an act for the better security of his majesty's royal person and government, but that he is willing to subscribe the said association, and to qualify himself accordingly, if this house shall please to elect him anew, to be one of the aldermen of this city, in his former station," &c. The honourable baronet was then elected an alderman. Still further to sustain the validity of this proceeding, on the anniversary of the election of the common-council in 1698, the citizens were convened, and such then appeared to be their indifference or disregard to popular elections, that they elected the whole body, and afterwards passed a vote, *that they should continue in their offices, according to ancient custom!*† Such is the uncertain dependance that can be placed upon the mere whim and caprice of the multitude.

* This was the last political act of Colonel Whitley's life, for he died on the 27th of July, 1697.

† From the corporation books:—"Proceedings at a general assembly, holden in the city of Chester, in the common-hall of pleas there, upon Saturday the 23d July, 1698, before William Allen, esq. mayor of the said city of Chester, the citizens, and commonalty of the same city. Whereas by the ancient usage and practice in this city, when, and as often, as the office or place of any of the aldermen or common council of this city became vacant by death or otherwise, in such case, the mayor, aldermen, sheriffs, and common-council of this city for the time being, did use, in their assemblies, to elect another fit person into such office or place; and every person so elected (having qualified himself according to law) was esteemed and allowed, and did act and take place as one of the aldermen or common-council of this city respectively, during his life (unless removed by some misdemeanor) until the year of our Lord 1693, in and since which time, some attempts have been made, not only to remove and displace divers of the common-council so chosen as aforesaid (without any misdemeanor charged upon them) but also to elect an annual common-council, and supply the vacant places of

So securely were the tory party now fixed in their authority, that during a period of more than thirty years, no particular conflicts occurred that is worthy of particular remark; for though several contested elections both of mayor and sheriff happened within that time, they cannot be traced to any dissonance between the two parties. But in the year 1732, a more interesting scene presented itself. At this period, the Dee was so choked up with sand, as scarcely to permit the smallest craft to come near the city, and it was apprehended, that even the trifling remains of its commerce were on the point of being annihilated. A project was therefore set on foot by some gentlemen in the city and county, chiefly of the whig party, for recovering and preserving the navigation of the river.* However suspicious the purity of the motives which originated this scheme, the undertaking has ultimately proved highly advantageous to the city. The popularity of the measure was such, that those who had seized it as exclusively their own, seem to have anticipated that it would afford them an opportunity of overturning the interest of the opposite party. It has been said, that sir Richard Grosvenor was decidedly opposed to the project, and although he presided as chairman in the committee of the house of commons on the bill, and appeared to countenance it, that this apparent friendship was a mere pretence. For the truth of this, I can find no better ground than what arises from party suspicion. It is certain, however, that the partizans of the corporation threw every possible obstacle in the way of its progress; and whig

aldermen in other manner than hath been anciently used and practised, whereby many doubts, questions, and disputes have arisen, to the great trouble and disquiet of the citizens of this city; now for remedy thereof, and for restoring peace and quiet to, and amongst, the said citizens, together with the ancient form and method of elections:---It is hereby agreed, ordered, and resolved, by the citizens and commonalty of this city, that Matthew Anderton, Edward Starkey, Jonathan Whitby, Edward Partington, John Warrington, Thomas Maddock, Joseph Maddock, William Francis, Thomas Stringer, Richard Taylor, Thomas Johnson, Thomas Warmingham, Edward Croughston, Valentine Short, Samuel Heath, Thomas Ward, and John Parker, who were heretofore duly elected, to be of the common-council, according to the said ancient usage, be, and hereby are, declared, acknowledged, restored and confirmed, to be of the common-council of this city; and for the supplying the full number of the common-council, it is further ordered, that James Mainwaring, Owen Ellis, Peter Edwards, Thomas Parnel, Thomas Wright, William Coker, Robert Morris, John Minshull, Humphrey Page, Thomas Williams, Edward Puleston, John Stringer, Thomas Bowker, John Bradshaw, Hugh Conway, Bradford Throppe, Richard Brereton, Joseph Dyason, Thomas Ridley, John Thomason, Hugh Colley, Richard Taylor, jun. Samuel Taylor, gent. be, and hereby are, elected and chosen to be of the common council of this city, and that the present aldermen of this city (that is to say) William Allen, esq. (the present mayor) William earl of Derby, sir Wm. Williams, knight and bart. recorder, sir Thomas Grosvenor, baronet, sir John Mainwaring, baronet, sir Richard Leving, knight, John Williams, esq. Henry Lloyd, William Ince, Hugh Starkey, Francis Skelthorne, Peter Bennett, William Bennett, Thomas Hund, Benjamin Critchley, Robert Murrey, Michael Johnson, Robert Hewitt, John Kynaston, William Starkey, Richard Oulton, and Puleston Partington, together with the common-councilmen above named, and every of them, shall and may, have continuance, power, and authority in their respective offices, and in their assemblies or common-council, in all things according to the said ancient usage and practice in this city, before the said year 1693, any late act, order or proceeding to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding."---On the 25th July, 1698, all the several persons named in the above order of assembly, appear, by an indorsement thereon, to have been sworn into their respective offices of aldermen and common councilmen. And by another indorsement it also appears, that at an assembly holden 25th August, 1698, the question was put whether this order should be entered into the assembly book? Yeas, 36; Noes, 3. To be entered accordingly.

* For the history of the Dee Navigation, see page 300, vol. ii.

or *tory*, were not more characteristic of a man's political principles, than his being a friend or opponent to the *navigation*, as it was then termed.

A general election was expected to take place in 1734, and both parties were already mustering their forces, inasmuch that several disturbances happened so early as the month of April, 1732, and a determination was formed to oppose the corporation interest at the mayor's election in October. This proved to be one of the severest party contests which the city ever experienced. The passions of the people were inflamed to madness; and as suspicions are always naturally directed against the exercise of power, so the *tories* seemed to apprehend that the corporation designed foul play, by surreptitiously creating a number of new freemen to strengthen their party. An incident occurred which, though perfectly harmless in itself, as they thought, justified their alarms. Some of the aldermen having met in the Pentice at a late hour on the Tuesday preceding the election-day, rumours were spread, that the whole of the night was to be employed in admitting to the freedom of the city as many of their party as they could conveniently introduce. A mob presently assembled about the Pentice, who broke open the door, assaulted and drove out the aldermen, and did considerable damage to the furniture and windows. Their adversaries found themselves overmatched in this kind of contest, and resolved to call in foreign forces to their assistance. Accordingly the following day, a large body of colliers, and other countrymen from the neighbourhood of Wrexham, were brought in by the direction and under the influence of Mr. W. W. Wynn. The citizens, hearing of their approach, retired into the castle, and there armed themselves with old swords, helmets, and breast-pieces, and thus formidably accoutred, sallied forth to meet the foe. A bloody encounter ensued in Bridge-street, and the Welshmen were soon put to flight, several being dangerously wounded. It was now agreed on both sides to put a stop to hostilities, and to settle some plan for conducting the election in a regular manner. The poll continued from Friday to Monday, and both parties made such exertions, that they brought votes from the most distant parts of the kingdom, and even from Ireland, though the charter limits these elections to be made by *commorant* citizens. The contest finally closed in favour of the corporation candidates; but no sooner were the books closed, and the mayor and his attendants retired from the hustings, but they found themselves surrounded by the defeated and enraged party; and were obliged to retreat into the Exchange coffee-house; neither here were they safe—for the mob broke in, seized the sword and mace, and chairing their favourite candidate, bore them before him to his house in triumph.

The candidates upon this occasion were, the corporation men, Aldermen Johnson, Alderman Ellames;—their opponents, Alderman Mainwaring, and Alderman Bennett; and at the close of the poll, the numbers stood as under:

Alderman Johnson.....	1097	Alderman Mainwaring.....	858
———— Ellames.....	1095	———— Bennett.....	858

Notwithstanding this defeat, the anti-corporation party determined upon a contest for the representation, and in May, 1734, a general election occurring, put in nomination, Mr. Richard Manley and Hugh Williams, against sir Robert Grosvenor and sir Charles Bunbury, when, after a contest that does not appear to have been carried to any considerable length, the two latter were returned. I have not been able to find any other account of this contest, than what is contained in the following, which appears to have been published

at the time, either in a hand-bill, or in a newspaper. At all events, it obviously proceeds from the defeated party :—

“Chester, May 21, 1734.—On Wednesday last, the election of representatives for this city began at our town-hall : the candidates on the one side were sir Robert Grosvenor and sir Charles Bunbury ; on the other, Mr. Manley and Mr. Williams. On Friday in the afternoon, a squabble arising among the citizens assembled in the hall, occasioned by the violence of the constables ; the returning officers, on that pretence, quitted the place, closed the books, and carried them away, though the court was quiet and unmolested, and though Mr. Williams and Mr. Manley insisted upon going on with the poll, and protested against any adjournment. The next morning, those candidates waited on the sheriffs, and demanded a return as the poll stood the night before, by which it appeared that they had a considerable majority of legal votes. The sheriffs, however, called a pretended court, and took the poll of all that offered themselves, and so got a majority of voices in favour of the two baronets. But notwithstanding this extraordinary step taken by them, and the assistance of a multitude of *foreigners*, it is not at all questioned, but at a proper time and place it will evidently appear, that Mr. Manley and Mr. Williams had a legal and fair majority of resident freemen.” In the concluding clause of this advertisement an intimation is given, that an appeal would be made to the house of commons on the merits of this election ; but no such proceeding took place.

In the mean time, however, and in consequence of the struggle at the mayor's election in 1732, recourse had been had to proceedings at law, to try the right of election of aldermen and common-council. It was contended, that the charter of Henry VII. and the subsequent confirmations of it by Elizabeth, James I. and Charles II. (in the sixteenth of his reign) had expressly vested it in the citizens at large, and that there were persons living, who could remember the franchise so exercised. Informations were accordingly brought against Johnson the mayor, ten aldermen, and eighteen common-council, for usurping the privilege of electing aldermen, exclusive of the commonalty. The first ground of defence adopted by the corporation was the charter of the 37th of Charles II. by which their mode of election was sanctioned ; but the reception it met with in the court of King's Bench, by Lord Chief-justice Hardwicke, and the rest of the judges, was such as to discourage entirely their persisting in that ground of defence : they had therefore recourse to another. It was a received opinion of that day, founded on the authority of Lord Coke, that where a particular mode of election had long prevailed in a corporation, though contradictory to the express terms of their charter, yet rather than the usage should be broke through, the law would give sanction to a bye-law, as the origin of such mode. The defendants, therefore, after allowing that they were incorporated under the charter of Henry VII. pleaded a bye-law, dated 20th April, 10th of Henry VIII. by which they established their present mode of election. To resist the effect of this bye-law, the replication stated the charter of the 16th Charles II. corresponding in the main points with that of Henry VII. and if the acceptance of it could have been proved, the date being so much later than that of the bye-law, it would have been sufficient to destroy it. That proof, however, failed ; and after several delays, the cause being tried at the spring assizes for the county in 1735, a verdict was given upon all the issues for the defendants.

An uninterrupted calm of a dozen years now succeeded. But in 1747, another attempt was made to oust one of the corporation candidates for the representation. It appears that at the election in 1734, the right of non-resident freemen to vote had been questioned, and it was now resolved to put it fairly to the trial. The candidates were, Sir R. Grosvenor, and Mr. Warburton on one side, and Mr. Mainwaring on the other. This contest, which is popularly called *the Baron's election*, was carried on with all the heat and violence of former and after times, and the result gave the following numbers to each candidate.

	Resident.	Non-resident.	Total.
For Sir R. Grosvenor	....716.....	333.....	1049
Mr. Warburton	.....610.....	318.....	928
Mr. Mainwaring	.....575.....	183.....	758

A petition to the house of commons followed against the return, and an enquiry commenced, which was the more important, as it for ever settled the long-disputed point as to in whom the right of voting was vested, and went to establish it in the *resident* freemen only. The proceedings of the house on this petition are interesting.

“HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Tuesday, Feb. 2, 1747, came on the hearing of the matter of the petition of James Mainwaring, jun. Esq. and the petition of several persons whose names were thereunto subscribed, complaining of an undue election and return for the city of Chester; and as their complaint was singly against the election of Philip Henry Warburton, Esq. he alone appeared by his counsel in support of his election. The dispute was about the *right* of electing, which by the petitioners was stated to be only in such citizens of the said city as are *inhabitants* within the same, or the liberties thereof, and admitted to their freedom by birth or servitude, and not receiving alms or any public charity; whereas by the sitting member the right of election was stated to be in the freemen of the said city *in general*.

“The original charter granted to the said city by King Henry VII. and the confirmation thereof by Queen Elizabeth, were produced, and part thereof was read, to prove that the right of electing the mayor, and several other officers of the said city, was vested in the citizens *commorant* within the said city, and that commorant citizens only were eligible into those offices.

“And a witness was examined in order to prove, that anciently such citizens only had enjoyed the right to vote in the election of citizens to serve in parliament for the said city, as were entitled to their freedom by birth or servitude.

“Another witness was examined in order to prove, that the said right was in such citizens only as are *inhabitants* within the said city, or the liberties thereof, and admitted to their freedom by birth or servitude, and not receiving alms, or any public charity.

“On the other hand, the sitting member shewed, from the resolutions of the house so far back as the second W. and M. that other freemen had voted at elections; and having produced several polls taken at elections of members of parliament for the said city, he proposed to prove, that many of the persons who voted at each of the said elections were not commorant in the said city when they voted; but the same was admitted by the petitioners. Then he proposed to prove, first, that several honorary and non-resident freemen had been elected into the offices of mayor and sheriff. Secondly,

that honorary freemen had exercised trades within the said city. Thirdly, that persons who had purchased their freedom were exempted from toll as well as other freemen; but the whole was admitted by the petitioners.

“The question being put, ‘That the right of election of citizens to serve in parliament for the city of Chester, is in the mayor, aldermen, and common-council of the said city, and in such of the freemen of the said city not receiving alms, as shall have been commorant within the said city, or the liberties thereof, for the space of one whole year next before the election of citizens to serve in parliament for the said city.’

The house divided—Yeas 141; Noes 92.

“The counsel for the petitioners acquainted the house, that the house having come to the aforesaid resolution, they were instructed to say, that the petitioners would give the house no further trouble.

“It was then resolved, *nem. con.* that Philip Henry Warburton, Esq. is duly elected a citizen to serve in this present parliament for the city of Chester.”

From this time to the year 1771, a period of 36 years, no political dispute occurred that demands particular notice. At that time, however, a rumour prevailed, that the corporation and their friends were indisposed to what was then believed to be of the utmost importance to the commerce of the city, the scheme for a navigable canal to Middlewich, and it was resolved to shew a disapprobation of their conduct, by insisting upon a popular election of one of the sheriffs, and a poll was accordingly demanded. Upon this occasion, the corporation candidate was Mr. Thomas Edwards, and the popular one, Mr. Henry Rider. The election commenced on Friday the 25th of October, and ended on Monday the 28th, 1771, and on the numbers being declared, there appeared,

For Mr. Edwards 465—For Mr. Rider 365.

This contest appears to have been carried on with great asperity on both sides, if we may judge from the anonymous addresses and squibs printed at the end of the names of the voters. One article in this collection is remarkable, being a circular from the mayor and the corporation, soliciting votes for their *two* sheriffs, though it is known to be the uniform practice for the mayor to appoint *one*, who is not subject to the suffrages of the freemen. The following is a copy of this article :—“Chester, Oct. 26, 1771.—Mr. Mayor, and the rest of the body corporate, present their respects to Mr. ——— and hope for the favour of his vote at the poll now taking in support of their nomination (according to annual custom) of Mr. John Dymock Griffith and Mr. Thomas Edwards, to be the two sheriffs of this city. And they also beg leave, Sir, to desire the honour of your countenance and interest on the occasion; so that the opposition may be the sooner decided, and the quiet of the city restored.”

Although upon every struggle between the two parties, the interest of the corporation in civic, and that of the house of Eaton in parliamentary elections, were constantly predominant, there was still a considerable portion

* The poll-book of this election was published, but it contains only the names of the voters.

of freemen remaining, who were decidedly opposed to both. The two grounds of opposition were now broad and definite. The first was, the pertinacious obstinacy of the corporate body in continuing to elect their own officers by the select body alone, in opposition to what they believed to be the direct meaning of the charter; and the second, the monopoly of the representation by the Eaton family, which had then uninterruptedly prevailed for the space of nearly three score years, in violation, as was contended, of the freedom of election. These have also been the occasion of our late political struggles; with this difference, that in the times I have been speaking of, the head of the house Eaton sustained the character of a country gentleman, but has since been elevated to the peerage; a circumstance, which, as it provided him a seat in the higher house of parliament, rendered his influence in the return of members more unpopular, as held in contravention of a great constitutional principle.

In the first parliament of George III. (1760) Thomas Grosvenor, esq. (brother of the newly-created lord) in conjunction with Richard Wilbraham Bootle, were elected members for the city; and were returned in three successive parliaments afterwards, without any appearance of opposition. But although the spirit of opposition had for some time slumbered, it was far from being extinguished. Early in the year 1784, the opposition in parliament, headed by Mr. Fox, was so powerful in resisting the measures of Mr. Pitt, the new minister, that the latter found it difficult to carry on the affairs of the nation; and his majesty deemed it adviseable to appeal to the nation on the merits of the opposite parties, by a dissolution of parliament, which had only sat three sessions. The dissolution took place on the 25th of March, and a new parliament convened on the 18th of May. It is clear that an opposition had been contemplated against the Grosvenor interest from the moment of the dissolution; for on the 10th of February, Mr. Crewe, of Bolesworth Castle, a gentleman but of moderate fortune, publicly announced himself a candidate for the representation. As already remarked, the occasion of a new parliament proceeded from nearly an equal division of numbers of the two parties in the Commons, and the experiment was to ascertain, whether the people, by their elections, would support the *whig* or *tory* interest; yet, although Mr. Crewe was known to belong to the former party, and his opponents to the latter, yet neither did he, nor they, affect to rest any claim upon their respective principles. The principal criterion by which the electors could be distinguished was by their adherence or hostility to the house of Eaton and the corporation.

In his first address to the freemen, Mr. Crewe states, that he came forward on the solicitation of his friends; but looking to the final result of the contest, the discretion of those friends is very questionable. In their justification, however, they affirm, that in his canvass, which was completed before the other candidates made their appearance, Mr. Crewe received such numerous *promises* of support, that would have carried the election in his favour, had they been realized; and in taking leave of the citizens, he himself ascribes his failure to "the broken promises of pretended friends." But all this should have been calculated upon; and taking into account, the overwhelming interest of the corporation and the Grosvenor family, and the comparative popularity of Mr. Bootle, the opposition, which would necessarily involve a vast expence, must be deemed a perilous experiment. The election commenced

on Monday the 5th of April, and continued till the 16th. As the freemen voted by tallies, the competitors proceeded neck and neck till towards the end of the contest, and at the close of the 9th day's poll, Mr. Crewe had a majority over Mr. Bootle of six. But from hence the former shewed evident signs of weakness, and his opponents passed him without difficulty, and finally obtained a decided victory. On the ninth day of the election, Roger Barnston, esq. a strenuous friend of Mr. Crewe, was put in nomination, in order to catch the second vote of that gentleman's adherents, but this step was rendered inefficient for its object, on account of the lateness of the period at which it was adopted. On the final close of the poll, the numbers stood as follow :—

For Mr. Grosvenor	713	For Mr. Crewe	480
Mr. Bootle	626	Mr. Barnston	38

This contest is computed to have cost *thirty thousand pounds*, when wine, the chief favourite of cobblers, tinkers, and labourers during an election, was not more than half its present price ; and one third of this sum has been placed, by common rumour, to Mr. Crewe's account. As usual, in political struggles, and especially in the city of Chester, the most acrimonious spirit prevailed throughout the election, and some serious disturbances, in which a good deal of mischief was done, occurred. There are but few men now living who can relate the history of the transactions of this memorable contest ; but its prominent features are still preserved in the poll-book, published soon after the election. Many of the articles in this depository, on both sides, are written with considerable ability, and some of them with great candour ; but both talent and activity seem to have preponderated in favour of Mr. Crewe.

This signal victory on the part of the corporation, so far from having subdued the spirit of their opponents, seems rather to have roused their resentment and quickened their energies. It was clearly seen, that the mode of electing the members of the body corporate produced an influence, against which the citizens, as contradistinguished from them, could not prevail, and it was determined to have recourse to legal proceedings, in order to destroy that system. The charter of Henry VII. supposed to vest the local elections in the citizens at large, had been published, and circulated with great industry ; and there was no difficulty in persuading the people to concur in an object which flattered them with an extension of their rights and privileges. Added to this, the soreness of the late defeat operated sensitively on the minds of those who had taken a leading part in favour of Mr. Crewe ; and it was understood that some kind of compact was entered into by a number of opulent individuals, to sustain the expences of a legal litigation. Mr. Ralph Eddowes, a gentleman of great respectability, and unimpeachable integrity, appears to have taken the lead in this transaction, and became the *relator* ; and had the compact just alluded to, been reduced into a legal form, or its spirit been *honourably* adhered to by those who were parties to it, it is probable, that at the final close of the proceedings, Mr. Eddowes's private fortune would not have been reduced by upwards of *two thousand pounds* !

Conformably to the resolution taken, on the 28th of April, 1785, a motion was made, and rules *nisi* obtained, in the Court of King's Bench, calling upon Mr. Amery, an alderman, and Mr. Monk, a common-councilman, to shew cause by what authority they acted as such, not having been

elected by the commonalty. On the 30th of May the rules were made absolute, and the case sent down for trial at Shrewsbury, where it took place before Sir James Eyre and a special jury, on the 8th of August, 1786. Counsel for the relator, Serjeant Adair, Mr. Mills, Mr. Lane, and Mr. Topping; for the defendants, Mr. Bearcroft, Mr. Leycester, Mr. Bower, Mr. Plumer, and Mr. Manley. Attorney for the relator, Mr. Snow; for the defendants, Mr. Hall, town-clerk. It would be impossible for me to enter into the various points involved in this proceeding, but it may be stated generally, that on the part of the defendant it was contended, that the constitution of the city of Chester, with respect to the election of aldermen, and the election of common-council, was, that aldermen and common-councilmen should be chosen by that which is known by the name of the select body—that select body being composed of the mayor, aldermen, and common-council, and it was proposed to sustain the legality of this usage upon the charter granted to the city in the 37th of Charles II. The trial in the case of Amery first came on, and after a long and laborious investigation, which occupied the court about nineteen hours, the jury withdrew for twenty minutes. When they returned into court, the foreman said, “My lord, we find the charter of Charles II. to be bad.” This decision involved an entire defeat of the corporation cause. The like verdict was entered, by consent, in the cause of the King against Monk.

This verdict was declaratory of the illegal system of elections adopted by the corporation; but it was still maintained by the counsel for the defendants, that the decision was neither in accordance with the law of the case, nor with the evidence. And under this conviction, on the 8th of November, 1786, a rule was obtained in the Court of King’s Bench, and on the 27th of January in the following year, made absolute, for a new trial. The pleadings were amended, and the issues reduced in number, but the question to be tried was substantially the same. The trial was again ordered for Shrewsbury, and came on before Sir Nath. Grose, on Tuesday the 20th of March, in 1787. In the decision of the jury upon the case is a strong illustration of the *glorious uncertainty*. For the verdict on the four following issues, comprehended all that was sought by the defendants:—1. That Charles II. by the charter pleaded by the defendants *did grant*.—2. That such charter was accepted by the citizens and inhabitants of Chester.—3. That the defendants were duly elected.—4. That the defendants were duly admitted. In Easter term, in this year, defendant’s counsel moved the King’s Bench for, and obtained, a rule to shew cause why the *postea* should not be delivered to the defendant, in order that he might enter up his judgment on it, and that in the mean time it might remain in the associate’s hands; and after many legal arguments by counsel on both sides, the following judgment was entered for the defendant:—“Whereupon all and singular the premises being seen and understood by the court of our said lord the king, now here, it is considered and adjudged by the said court here, that the office, liberties, privileges, and franchises, so claimed by him, the said Thomas Amery aforesaid, be allowed and adjudged to him; and that he the said Thomas Amery be dismissed and discharged by the said court here, of and from the premises above charged upon him; and that he the said Thomas Amery recover, against the said Ralph Eddowes, the relator above named in this behalf, the sum of two thousand pounds for his costs by him laid out and expended in defending his

suit in this behalf, according to the form of the statute in such case made and provided."

It was supposed by many, that this verdict would have finally put an end to the proceedings, and left the corporation in future undisturbed possession of the field. But the fact proved otherwise. Mr. Eddowes, who, as before noticed, had the chief management of the dispute, resolved on the *dernier resort*, by an appeal to the House of Lords; and communicated his determination in a letter to the citizens. "My motive," (says he) "for attending the giving judgment in our cause in the Court of King's Bench, was, that I might immediately consult our counsel on the subject of it, if it should prove unfavourable. This, I have lost not a moment in doing: and I now inform you, that they have expressed their dissatisfaction with the judgment given, in such terms, that I should have deemed myself rather the betrayer than the defender of your franchises, if I had hesitated a moment to form my resolution; and the manly firmness you have discovered in every past stage of this important business, would have reproached me with cowardice and pusillanimity, if I could not have prevailed on myself to trust it once more, in order to carry the cause to its final determination in a higher court: *I have therefore left directions for suing out a writ of error.*"

In accordance with this determination, the question was brought before the house of lords, on the 5th of February, 1790, and after the voluminous arguments by counsel on both sides, which occupied seven days, the house referred the two following questions to the opinion of the judges:—First, whether the matter of the plea, as the same stands admitted or found by the verdict, is sufficient to support the defendant's title to the office of alderman in question? Secondly, whether the matter of the replications, admitted or found by the verdict, is sufficient to avoid such title?

The opinion of the learned judges was delivered by the Lord Chief Baron Eyre, in a long address to their lordships, the concluding part of which will be sufficient to inform the reader of the final decision:—"Without going out of the record, or borrowing at all from the fact, we conceive, *that the matter of this replication, as the same stands admitted and found by the verdict, IS SUFFICIENT TO AVOID THE DEFENDANT'S TITLE TO THE OFFICE OF ALDERMAN.* My lords, many other questions (some of them of the very last importance) were agitated in the course of the argument—such as, whether a corporation can be dissolved or forfeited by judgment? How a suit for that purpose is to be instituted? Whether the power of amotion in the charter of Charles II. be general or limited, and what that limitation is? Whether taking it as general or limited, it would be a void power or a valid power? and if void, whether it would or would not avoid the whole charter? We have taken all these difficulties into consideration, but I am not prepared to say, that we have agreed upon an opinion to be offered to your lordships upon them. We are apprehensive, that as to some of these questions in particular, any opinion we might offer, might have an influence upon other corporations, and tend to disturb the peace of them; as we are prepared, without resolving these questions, to submit an answer to your lordships upon the two questions you have been pleased to propose to us, we have not thought it prudent to ask of your lordships any opportunity for the further investigation of the others."

Then the Lord Chancellor left the woolsack, and after a short preface, moved their lordships, "That the judgment given by the Court of King's Bench, in this case, be REVERSED, and judgment entered for the King." Having returned to the woolsack, his lordship put the question upon the said motion, which was agreed to *nem. con.*

Thus terminated for the present, this notable question, after having been thrice investigated; occupied a period of six years; and cost an immense sum of money. Through some gross negligence on the part of the relator's counsel, in omitting to apply for costs, a considerable portion of the expences ultimately fell on the shoulders of Mr. Eddowes.

However elated were the anti-corporation party on this decisive victory, which, according to their calculation, was to be immediately followed by popular elections, they still found themselves met by the body-corporate with an unyielding resistance. Notwithstanding the decision in the lords, the corporation still adhered to their usual system, and resolved to take up another defence in support of their proceedings, namely, to deny that the charter of 21st Henry VII. was ever accepted, and set up *immemorial custom*. Mr. Eddowes, not having been supported by his fellow-citizens in the manner he thought he had a right to expect, did not think it prudent to embark in a fresh litigation, at his own expence; and other individuals, who had appeared zealous in the cause at its commencement, shewed no disposition to pursue the object further. A letter, written by Mr. Eddowes to Recorder Bower, after it was known that the corporation had decided upon a new ground of defence, dated May 29, 1790, contains his intention of withdrawing from the struggle, and at the same time, broadly intimates his dissatisfaction with the conduct of those with whom he had been associated. "In one respect," (says Mr. Eddowes) "I grant the corporation are formidable—they are in possession of power, and if they are resolved *per fas aut nefas* to keep it, there may be occasion for a fresh litigation between them and some one person on behalf of the freemen. Who that person is to be, I cannot pretend to say; or whether he would meet with the proper necessary support, I cannot ascertain. As to the part I have taken in the late cause, though a principle of honour and love to my country determined me not to abandon, after having once undertaken it, yet *prudential reasons absolutely forbid me to place myself AGAIN in such a situation*. The corporation may resemble the head of Hydra, or the stable of Augeas, but I am no Hercules; nor do I find myself disposed to undertake the labour of delivering the public from all its baneful and loathsome effects."

From that time to the present, the corporation have invariably continued to elect by the select body, though several litigations have since been resorted to, to compel them to alter the mode, which will be noticed hereafter. In the mean time, it may be observed, that in proportion as the contest in the case of Mr. Eddowes was long and ardent, so the unfriendly disposition between the two parties towards each other became fixed and deep-rooted. Those anti-corporators who had been personally engaged in the legal proceedings, and who had advanced money in the prosecution of the cause, felt bitter disappointment, that all their efforts had failed to accomplish their object; and this bitterness of feeling not only spread itself to all their contemporaries who

favoured their object, but was imbibed likewise by their descendants. And what tended not a little to sharpen their animosity, was the consideration, that notwithstanding the decision of the highest tribunal in the country in their favour, their opponents braved the verdict, and rested their security on the superior means they possessed of prosecuting further litigations.

No attempt was made to oppose either the corporation in the election of city officers, or the house of Eaton in the return of members, until the year 1807, when an incident occurred, which in its progress renewed the local disputes, and rendered them more virulent than ever. In the spring of that year, upon a dissolution of parliament, Mr. Drax Grosvenor, who had been member for the city since 1802, announced his intention of not offering himself again for that honour: his resignation was dated the 28th of April, and on the 2nd of May, Colonel Hanmer, in conjunction with one of the late members, General Grosvenor, commenced a canvass of the citizens, without any previous intimation or solicitation. This procedure, to say the least of it, was not less uncourteous than impolitic; it was taken to be, and certainly not without reason, an insult to the freemen. Nor did the occasion call for such precipitancy. The influence of the Eaton family, united with that of the corporation was at this moment paramount; and nothing could have disturbed it, but such an injudicious step as was now taken. It would seem that the corporate body had never been consulted as to the eligibility of a new candidate; and the freemen considered they were taken by surprise. Colonel Hanmer was a gentleman totally unconnected with the city, had not even a residence in the county, and was moreover personally unknown to all the electors. This I take to have been the first cardinal error in the policy of the house of Eaton, in reference to the representation of Chester. A number of individuals of the first respectability, and among them several members of the corporation, were highly dissatisfied at the unceremonious introduction of colonel Hanmer, and a deputation was instantly dispatched to Oulton, to solicit John Egerton, esq. to become a candidate. He obeyed the summons, and on the evening of the day in which Mr. Hanmer commenced his canvass, formally announced his intention of offering himself. Mr. Egerton was a gentleman descended from a good family, intimately connected with the city, and of amiable and engaging manners; and these advantages, taken in connexion with the unfavourable impressions excited against the other candidate, turned the popular tide entirely in his favour. This expression of the public sentiment could not but be observed by the corporation, who on the 4th of May called an assembly of the mayor, aldermen, and common-council, and after an address from general Grosvenor, passed the following resolution:—
 “Resolved unanimously, that in consideration of Mr. Egerton’s address, and his family having been, for ages past, connected with the city of Chester, we consider his claim, for our suffrages, superior to that of colonel Hanmer. We therefore are decidedly of opinion, that Mr. Egerton should be supported in conjunction with General Grosvenor.” This resolution, and the general appearance of circumstances induced Colonel Hanmer immediately to withdraw his pretensions; and on the 6th of May, General Grosvenor and Mr. Egerton were unanimously elected.

It does not appear that many of those individuals who had taken an active part in the return of Mr. Egerton were inimical to the corporation, or to the interests of Earl Grosvenor, in a general point of view; but the unfor-

fortunate line of conduct pursued by his lordship and friends, immediately after this election, had the direct influence of severing them from their former political connexions, and of throwing their whole weight into the scale of what I shall designate, for the sake of distinction, the Crewe party. It happened, that Mr. William Seller, who was one of the deputation inviting Mr. Egerton as a candidate, stood next in succession, according to the usual routine, to fill the chair of the chief magistrate; but at an assembly of the corporation, held on the 18th of September, Earl Grosvenor signified his intention of serving the office of mayor for the following year. His lordship is also reported to have stated, that he wished it to be explicitly understood, that in case Mr. Egerton should be returned at any future period for the city, it must be through the interest of the corporation and the house of Eaton. The declaration of his lordship in reference to the mayoralty was taken to be a marked rebuke to Mr. Seller, for the part he had sustained in the election, and made that gentleman and his personal friends, decided opponents of his lordship's interest; and his intimation respecting the future representation, excited a strong feeling of dissatisfaction. This two-fold transaction is what I consider the *second* cardinal error in the policy of the house of Eaton.

I have no intention or wish to record these occurrences with a view to brand them with the mark of censure; neither, in noticing them, am I disposed to afford a subject of party triumph to one side, or of offence to the other. That they were indiscretions, is certain, but between indiscretions and faults there is a wide distance; and in the midst of political heats, it is hardly fair to judge of actions by the rigorous rules of wisdom and prudence. It was necessary, however, to state the facts, because to them are chiefly to be attributed those bitter contentions and infuriated broils, which for many years disturbed the city. The newspapers, and other publications, abounded with criminations and recriminations; but, as is always the case, the popular party, who now assumed the cognomen of *Independents*, was pre-eminently distinguished. Now that the season of irritation is gone by, I am inclined to think, that the warm partizans of neither party will view with complaisancy the extreme violence that was manifested.

Although, as above stated, a rancorous feeling prevailed, from the time of the return of Mr. Egerton, yet the parties came not into any tangible contact, until October, 1809, at the election for corporate officers. Upon this occasion, the *Independents*, (a term which I shall hereafter use to designate the anti-corporation party, by way of distinction) determined upon nominating Mr. Seller as mayor, and Mr. Robert Brittain, as the popular sheriff. It may be proper to observe, that on the day previous to the election, a requisition, signed by twelve freemen, calling upon the mayor (the late Mr. Newell) before he proceeded to the election of the chief magistrate, "to elect, make, and create 24 citizens of the city of Chester, for the aldermen, as also 40 other citizens of the same city, for the common-council of the said city, pursuant to the charter granted to the city of Chester by his late Majesty King Henry the Seventh, and bearing date the 6th day of April, in the 21st year of his reign," &c. To this requisition, Mr. Newell returned an answer, in which he declined a compliance with it, observing, "I shall proceed, as far as lies in me, in the election of the annual corporation officers, in the usual way, according to the ancient usage, fairly and honestly according to the best of my judgment."

At the common-hall, held on Friday the 27th of October, the Exchange was crowded to excess. On the return of the corporation from church, an attempt was made to begin business, but in vain; the clamour and noise of contending parties, riot reigned triumphant, and at last, the magistrates were compelled to leave the bench. The fences of the court were broken down with an alarming crash by the pressure of the people, who rushed in, and completely filled the space reserved for business; the court retired to the justice's room, and soon after adjourned to the next morning at nine o'clock. Though a cessation had taken place between the parties, the preparations for contention were unabated; every exertion was made by the respective parties to bring their phalanxes into the field early next morning. At ten o'clock, the court and crowd assembled in increased numbers, when, after the usual preliminary business, the recorder announced that the corporate body had had their regular meetings, and that they recommended Mr. Alderman Evans and Mr. Alderman Davison to be put in nomination to serve the office of mayor. Mr. Seller was then proposed and seconded; and a shew of hands being demanded, it was declared to be in favour of aldermen Evans and Seller, who being returned to the court of aldermen, the former was chosen mayor. It is difficult to assign a motive to the *Independents* for nominating Mr. Seller, except that of mere annoyance; for had they even proceeded to a poll, and obtained ever so large a majority in his favour, they well knew, that according to that charter for which they themselves contended, it was in the power of the aldermen to exclude him. Still further to shew their hostility, the anti-corporators had determined to carry, if possible, the election of a popular sheriff; and on the mayor's sheriff being appointed, and Mr. Grace proposed by the friends of the body as the other, Mr. Robert Brittain, a gentleman who avowed himself a friend to Mr. Egerton's parliamentary interests, was put in nomination also. The parties immediately proceeded to a poll, which was vigorously carried on till six o'clock in the evening, when the *Independents* being convinced that a further prosecution of their purpose would be unavailing, gave up the contest, the numbers being—

For Mr. Grace..... 278

Mr. Brittain 210

Majority 68

A prosecution was instituted against three of the *Independents* for the riots and mischief done in the Town-hall this day, which, after a trial in the county court, terminated in the acquittal of the accused.

The baneful influence of party now raged in the city with its utmost violence; and was manifested almost in every transaction, whether of a public or private nature; the events of that period cannot be contemplated without regret, if not disgust, and it would be folly to disguise the fact, that rancour and virulence were alike observable in both the contending parties. From time immemorial a part of the Exchange had been used as an assembly-room, where the worthy citizens and their wives and daughters had indiscriminately mixed in the mazy dance during the winter months: it now happened, however, that some unpleasantness occurred between the managers of the assembly and the corporate body, which ultimately terminated in a decision of the former, to open a rival ball at the Royal Hotel, which was eventually accomplished, and for a time, we had what was appropriately enough denominated

a Grosvenor and an Egerton assembly. Another blessed emanation of this state of contention occurred on the 3rd of January, 1810, at the theatre. A Miss Holliwell, by profession a player, and who was known to be under pecuniary embarrassments, announced her intention of giving a concert of vocal and instrumental music at the play-house. Either by chance or by choice, she was thrown under the auspices of the independent party, who became her patrons, and either from mercy to her, or in malevolence to their political opponents, induced her to insert in her bills, as a part of the performance, the song of "The Glorious Sixth of May,"—a party song, which was known to every child in the city, as the *shibboleth of Independence*. Many friends of the house of Eaton took this, and certainly not without reason, as an insult to their political adherents, and a gross breach of public decorum; and purchased a number of tickets of admission, with the avowed purpose of preventing the obnoxious composition being sung. Very different and opposite accounts are given of the commotion in the theatre on the evening of the performance, by the two newspapers of the day; but as they obviously were elicited by feelings of partiality, I shall adopt neither of them. It may be briefly remarked, however, that when the objectionable performance was about to be introduced, the most distracting and deafening uproar followed. Cat-calls, clappers, whistles, yells, screams, and greans, with clapping of hands and stamping of feet, were in such fervid operation, as to render the scene any thing rather than the harmony of a concert. For some time the victory was doubtful, but in the end, the assailants were triumphant; they drove the fiddlers from the orchestra, the performer made a precipitate retreat from the stage, and the audience made the best of their way out of the theatre. While impropriety on the part of these men must be admitted, the circumstances which called forth their violence can never be justified; a place of public amusement, to which the community is invited for the purposes of amusement, ought to be the last place in which to provoke or indulge party animosities.

From the return of Mr. Egerton, in 1807, it was well-understood, that he would be opposed on the first election afterwards; but not a whisper had transpired, as to the person who was to be his opponent. Early in the year 1810 was fixed upon as the proper time to make that disclosure. The 27th of January was the birth-day of Lord Belgrave, the heir apparent of the house of Eaton, and a notification was given, that this event would be commemorated by dinners to be given to the citizens of Chester in Earl Grosvenor's interest. About seventy public-houses were opened, where dinners were provided, and an unlimited order given for wine, spirits, &c. To every house was appointed a president, and to each president, a list of toasts, consisting of fifteen, the *eighth* of which was contained in a sealed paper, and not to be opened until the seventh had been given. Of this toast, which disclosed the future candidate, and was given by each president in its appointed order, the following is a copy:—"Sir Richard Brooke, baronet, who, as a friend of the house of Eaton, hopes in conjunction with General Grosvenor, to have the honour of representing you in the next parliament." This unusual method of announcing a candidate was a topic of much merriment among our Chester wits; but as the mode is only a subject of taste, I can see nothing that exposes it to censure or sarcasm. This incident was immediately followed by an address from Sir Richard Brooke to the freemen,

soliciting their suffrages, and a personal canvass. At a meeting of the assembly of the corporation held on the 15th of March, the freedom of the city was voted to Sir Richard, and to six other gentlemen.

That no advantage might be derived by their opponents from these early and active movements, the *Independents* also commenced a general canvass, headed by Colonel Barnston, who was chairman of Mr. Egerton's committee, and at the close of the month of March, Mr. Egerton paid a personal visit to the city. Good eating and drinking, as by common consent, are considered very necessary appendages to electioneering solicitations, of which the friends of his lordship had tasted the sweets; and it was now thought by the opposite party, that a good dinner, well saturated with the juices of the grape, would have no tendency to detract from their *independence*. Accordingly, on the 2nd of April, a very numerous party of Mr. Egerton's friends dined at the Royal Hotel, when some speeches, remarkable for ardent patriotism, were delivered. The following day, Mr. Egerton published an address of thanks, and left the city.

To account for the parties being engaged so early in the canvass as the latter end of 1809, and beginning of 1810, it may be observed, that the unsettled state of the ministry, and their declining popularity, created a general expectation of an immediate dissolution of parliament—a calculation, however, that proved incorrect, as that event did not take place, until the month of September, 1812. The intermediate space between the former and latter period, was employed by both parties in exertions for strengthening their respective interests, though no material incidents occurred that need be noticed. At length the tug of war came on. On the 1st of October, formal annunciations were published by the three candidates; and immediately, a canvass commenced, the respective parties being attended by an immense crowd. From the first beginning of the contest, apprehensions of serious disturbances had been entertained by the peaceable citizens, on account of the animosity which agitated the city. There was indeed one crisis which threatened an alarming conflict, and this was nearly at the close of the second day's canvass. Towards the dusk of the evening, the Egerton party was at the top of Watergate-street, and the Grosvenor's below the Eastgate, and both moving at the same time to their head-quarters, they came in contact nearly opposite the hotel. Each was attended with a band of music, and numerous flags; and although the street here is wide, yet such was the denseness of the crowd, that it was impossible for either to proceed, without intermingling with the other. It seemed also to be believed by both parties, that their opponents had purposely planned this meeting by way of bravado, or challenge, a persuasion that put them all upon their mettle, and induced a hostile feeling. A few individual skirmishes commenced, and were spreading themselves through the vast multitude, when several of the influential gentlemen on both sides interposed their exertions and authority, and contrary to all human expectation, succeeded in putting an end to a conflict, which threatened the most disastrous results.

In the early part of the canvass, Mr. Egerton's committee thought, or affected to think, that they should have no difficulty in returning two members, and under this assumption, addressed an invitation to H. R. Hughes, Esq. banker, to join Mr. Egerton as a candidate for the representation of the city. To this civil solicitation, Mr. Hughes returned a polite answer,

declining the honour intended him, observing, that "domestic considerations alone had induced him to decline an invitation so highly flattering to his feelings." It is very obvious, however, that the friends of Mr. Egerton had seen the necessity and advantage of uniting some other candidate with him, not perhaps so much from an expectation of his succeeding, as to divert the second vote of the freemen from both of his other antagonists. Such a candidate was subsequently obtained, as will be seen by what follows.

The nomination was fixed for the 8th of May, when the different candidates, accompanied by their respective friends, repaired to the hustings, erected under the Exchange. Edward Holt, Esq. of King-street, then came forward, and put in nomination General Grosvenor. The nomination of the gallant general was seconded by Mr. Alderman Hodson. Colonel Barnston, in a speech of considerable length, addressed the freemen, and in conclusion, proposed Mr. Egerton, as one of their representatives; Mr. Alderman Sellar seconded the nomination. The Mayor (R. Bowers, Esq.) proposed Sir Richard Brooke, of Norton Priory; seconded by Mr. Alderman Smith.—Edward Roberts, Esq. nominated Mr. Edward VENABLE Townshend, seconded by Mr. Thomas Moulson.

The respective candidates then presented themselves in the order they had been proposed, and severally addressed the freemen.

The poll then commenced, and was carried on with unabating spirit on both sides for eleven successive days (with the intervention of the Sunday), that is, till Tuesday the 20th of October, when, on its final close, the number for each candidate stood as follows :—

For General Grosvenor	627
Mr. Egerton	602
Sir Richard Brooke	575
Mr. Townshend	537

Majority of Mr. Egerton above Sir Richard 27

The General and Mr. Egerton were of course declared to be duly elected, and thus terminated this hard-fought political battle.

During the whole of this contest, almost every inn and tavern in the city were thrown open for the entertainment of all comers, with, in many cases, an unlimited order for the supply of meat and drink of all kinds. The expences and disorders were not a little increased from this circumstance, that the election was carried on during the whole continuance of our great Michaelmas fair, when the population of Chester was increased by several thousands; and when gormandizing and intoxication were much more attended to, than buying or selling. It has been said, that this election cost Mr. Egerton upwards of fifteen thousand pounds, and the amount of expences to his opponents was probably more than double this sum. When this lavish expenditure for a seat in parliament is considered, taken in connexion with the disorders, riots, and drunkenness attendant upon a contested election, in populous towns, for a fortnight together, I cannot but congratulate the country on the reform bill now before parliament, (July, 1831) by which many of these evils will be entirely removed, or essentially reduced. These calamities have pressed heavily on the city of Chester, partly arising from the equally balanced numbers of each party, but principally from the pertinacious obstinacy of the respective adherents, kept alive and confirmed by unceasing

mutual irritation. Enough has been already narrated to justify this remark ; but the history of similar conflicts for the space of eighteen years, after the period we have now arrived at, will still further confirm the truth of the observation. The only comfort to be derived from a retrospect of these things, to the *real* friends of Chester, is, the consolatory reflexion, that the period of contention is gone, and that the cheering prospect of peace and concord is before them.

Before I finally quit this subject, it may be proper to say, that after the election, each of the parties published a poll-book, in which the proceedings are given, as usual upon such occasions, according to the partialities of the writers ; and in both which also are contained the authorised and anonymous publications on both sides. As to number of compositions, those of the *independents* prevailed ; but as to their merits, I must decline giving an opinion. The limits of this sketch will not admit their insertion here ; nor if they did, would I allow them. Among them, however, are serious and grave addresses ; solemn appeals ; important interrogatories ; vulgar declarations ; coarse invectives ; scandalous charges ; and here and there a tolerably good attempt to create a smile, by placing their opponents in a ludicrous position.*

In detailing this memorable contest, I have been more circumstantial, than I can find space for in those that follow. I consider the year 1812, a remarkable epoch in the annals of the political history of Chester, from which subsequent occurrences took their form and colour ; and having gone pretty much at length into the transactions of that year, and stated as correctly as I am able the grounds of difference between the contending parties, little more than a brief recital of facts will be necessary in what follows.

At the election for city officers in October, 1812, Mr. Samuel Bennett, wine-merchant, had been chosen mayor, and in his views and principles was supposed to be sound and orthodox, that is, friendly to the mode of election adopted by the corporation. Even so late as one month before the termination of his office, he seems to have acted in perfect union with his brother

* I think I may venture to give two specimens of this species of composition, one from each of the rival parties, without offence ; and can only at most excite a smile. The first is a *supposed* speech from the *independent* candidates, from the window of the hotel ; and the other from Sir W. W. Wynn, who was in the interest of the General and Sir Richard Brooke.

"To THE PUBLIC.---As an admirer of the Ciceronian mode of expression, I should think myself deficient in duty, were I not to lay before you a verbatim report of an oration made by JOHN EGERTON, Esq. late member of parliament for Chester, from the hotel window on Wednesday evening. It is at once so pithy, expressive and eloquent, as to set at defiance the pedantic analyzations of the critics.---'Gentlemen, I---I---thank you for your great kindness to me this day---and I have---have---great pleasure to inform you that I am only one vote behind Sir Richard---I---I---I---mean, gentlemen, that I am only one vote worse than I was yesterday.---Gentlemen, that vote was lost by accident,---and I expect to have it to-morrow, gentlemen.' The speaker was here pulled away from the window, by Mr. E. V. Townshend, of Wincham, a stentorian orator, who thanked those stout lads, who had treated him with a ride for six days, and was glad to say, they would have to carry him a few days more.---So good night ! ! !'

Sir Watkin's Oration from the White Lion.

"Shentlemen---I was very much please to come here to-day for to pole for the house of Eaton. My family, she was always attach to Lord Grosvenor's ; my father's father's great grandfather's father, did love the Eaton family great deal. Lord Grosvenor, she is partly a Welse-man, and I hope all Welse-men was support Lord Grosvenor. If I did see any Ansient Britons here now, I was sure they would support Lord Grosvenor. But it is dark, Shentlemen. And so, Shentlemen, I was wish you good night,"

corporators, having joined them in a written invitation to Sir W. W. Wynn, requesting him to accept the office of chief magistrate for the following year. It seems, however, that just about this time, a verdict had been given against Mr. Bennett, for a stretch of his magisterial authority towards an individual, by which he was involved in costs to the amount of two or three hundred pounds; and as the corporation declined taking upon themselves any portion of these costs, Mr. Bennett seems to have taken offence. This was the motive assigned at the time for his defection. But be this as it may, on the 20th October, only two days before the election for city officers, *the Right Worshipful the Mayor* presided at a public dinner at the Royal Hotel, to celebrate the anniversary of Mr. Egerton's re-election as member of parliament for the city. It is not for me to say whether his *new friends* did for him, that which his *old ones* refused to do, but there seems to have been a perfectly good understanding between him and the former. On the following day (the 21st) a requisition was presented to his worship, calling upon him on the subsequent day, "to elect, make, and create twenty-four fellow-citizens of the said city, to be aldermen, and forty other citizens of the said city, to be common council men of the said city for the year ensuing; and to proceed to such election pursuant to the charter granted to the citizens and commonalty of the said city of Chester, by his late Majesty King Henry the Seventh," &c. A prompt and satisfactory answer was returned, and posted up the same day, in which Mr. Bennett says, "I hereby inform my fellow citizens, that it is my intention to proceed to the election of the twenty-four aldermen, the forty common council-men, and the other city officers, to-morrow, being Friday the 22d October, 1818."

Again the rival parties crowded the Exchange on the Friday morning, and the scene may be more accurately conceived than described. At the same moment that the recorder and aldermen were proceeding in the usual method of choosing a mayor, (Sir Watkin) coroners, treasurers, leave-lookers and sheriffs; the *independents* were busily employed in reading from a written paper, *their* list of officers, including the new mayor (Mr. William Seller) with the whole complement of aldermen and common council men.* Thus was the city presented with the novel spectacle of *two* corporations co-

* The following is a list of the *new* corporation, as proposed at the common-hall.

Those names marked thus (*) were members of the *old* one----

ALDERMEN.

Hugh Leycester*	Thomas Rathbone*	Earl Grosvenor*	Edw. Omm. Wrench
Joseph Dyson*	William Newell*	John Larden*	Edw. Mainwaring
John Hallwood*	Thomas Evans*	R. E. D Grosvenor*	William Massey
Andrew Davison*	Samuel Bennett*	Daniel Smith*	Thomas Hodson
Peter Broster*	Robert Brittain*	William Seller*	John Lowe
John Wright*	James Bennett*	Robert Hodgson*	Thomas Whittle.

COMMON COUNCIL-MEN.

Rich. Richardson*	John Edwards	John Dodd	J. S. Hughes*
Jno. Chamberlaine*	Robert Whittle	William Cole	Thomas Whittakers
Thomas Poole*	John Troughton*	Edward Titley	John Walker
Josiah Thomas*	Robert Brittain	John Moulson	John Bradford*
John S. Rogers*	William Bage	John Broster*	William Cortney*
Thomas Moulson	William Coker	John Powell*	William Moss*
Edward Roberts	Thomas Francis	John Griffith	Joseph Grace*
John Hassall	J. Williamson, distil.	W. O. Roberts	William Massey*
R. W. Lloyd	Henry Bowers*	Thomas Whittle	Thomas Bradford*
William Gorst	Thos. Cholmondeley*	J. Williamson, bld.*	Thomas Barnes.

existent; with this difference, that the old one preserved in their possession, the important insignia of office, the sword and mace, scarlet and ermine. On the following market-day, however, both walked the markets; and both attended divine service at the cathedral on the Sunday after. But the elder brother had possession of the Town-hall, and the younger did not venture to assume the judicial functions.

As neither party were willing to recede from their elevated station, another appeal to the courts of law became necessary, and accordingly, a rule to shew cause was obtained by the old corporation against Mr. Seller as mayor, Mr. Edward Roberts and Mr. Hassall, as sheriffs, and Mr. Mainwaring as alderman; and at the same time by the new corporation against Sir Watkin W. W. Wynn, as mayor, Mr. Fletcher, and Mr. Hastings, sheriffs, &c. These rules were made absolute, on both sides, by consent, and the cause sent down to Shrewsbury for trial. On the twenty-sixth of March, 1814, the cause came on there; and the corporation, having got their cause first entered, the question of the King against Mainwaring, was brought on. The defendant set up the charter of Henry VII. and that the election took place under it; while the corporation justified their mode of election by prescription, and denied the acceptance of Henry the Seventh's charter. After a long and tedious investigation, a verdict was given against the defendant, by which his election was declared null. This verdict was given under the direction of the learned judge, not on the general question of the charter, but on account of the insufficiency of the notice, and the improper way in which the new candidates for office had been proposed. The case of the King against Sir Watkin stood next for trial, but as it was now Saturday evening, and all the other business of the assizes being finished, it was left as a remanet. A vast expence having been incurred by these proceedings, and after the unfavourable issue in the above trial, the *independents* seemed disposed to compromise, and it was finally agreed between the two parties, that all further proceedings in the other cases should be abandoned, each paying their own costs. Thus terminated this question, for the present, the evanescent civic dignitaries retiring into the rank of private citizens, and the corporation left to pursue their usual mode of elections.

An interval of four years of comparative quiet followed this attempt of the *independents* to oust the corporation; when at the city elections in 1817, an attempt was again made to introduce Mr. Seller to the office of chief magistrate, in opposition to Mr. Alderman Henry Bowers, who stood next in succession. The effort was unsuccessful; for although Mr. Seller polled 271 votes, Mr. Bowers, 268, and Mr. Bradford, 58; yet the aldermen, exercising their unquestioned right of making their choice of one from the two gentlemen who were highest on the poll, elected Mr. Bowers, who was invested with the wand of office. It may be admitted, that upon this, as other occasions, the *independents* put up and supported Mr. Seller, as an individual supposed to be ill-treated; but it must also be conceded, that a portion of the freemen voted for him, in order to defeat Mr. Bowers, on the illiberal ground of his being a *Dissenter*. It is not my wish to depart from the plain narration of facts, to flatter or to censure political friends or opponents; but I must be permitted to remark on this point, that this adverse proceeding was most unworthily directed, particularly when the motive just hinted at is taken into the account. The inflexible integrity displayed by Mr. Bowers during his

mayoralty, in which a severe contested election occurred, will fully justify this remark.

Preparations for this contest commenced about the time Mr. Bowers entered upon his mayoralty. Sir John Grey Egerton* had shewn himself a thorough partizan of the ministers of the day, in all their measures, and particularly had given his support to the bill for a suspension of the habeas corpus act, passed in June, 1817, against the enacting of which, the citizens of Chester had presented a petition. This part of his parliamentary conduct was so highly offensive to several of the most respectable of his constituents, that they resolved to withdraw their parliamentary support from the worthy baronet at the succeeding election, and this determination became a subject of public notoriety. Sir John, being apprized of this circumstance, on the 25th of October, addressed a letter to Colonel Barnston, the chairman of his committee, in which, after adverting to the dissonance of sentiments existing between him and a part of his constituents, attempts to justify the vote he had given in favour of the obnoxious bill; and then, as if desirous of feeling the pulse of the citizens, remarks, "After what has recently passed, I feel with you, that I should not repeat the offer of my services, unless my friends at Chester first come forward with an explicit avowal of their intentions." It does not appear, that any encouraging advances were then made to Sir John by his friends in Chester, to induce him to offer himself as a candidate, in consequence of which, he seems to have taken a final resolution to abandon the representation; and communicated this purpose, in a letter, dated the 5th of December, 1817, addressed to the citizens of Chester. "Circumstances which have occurred" (says he) "and my anxiety that the independent interest should not suffer from any delay on my part, induce me to take this early opportunity of informing you, that it is not my intention to offer myself a candidate for your suffrages at the approaching dissolution of parliament."

A reasonable prospect now presented itself, that our demoralizing political contests were drawing to a close; this anticipation was further strengthened by the appearance of an address from Lord Belgrave, dated the 19th of December, stating his intention of offering himself; followed by a personal canvass, in which his lordship's reception was highly flattering. But, alas! this interval of comfort was short-lived in its duration. The seceders from the cause of Sir John Egerton—at least those who were professedly opposed to his political principles, and equally inimical to the corporation interests—commenced active measures to procure a man of sentiments congenial with their own; and announced, that an invitation had been transmitted to Sir Samuel Romilly to become a candidate; but it does not appear that this gentleman ever gave them any reason to hope for a compliance. The fact is, that Sir Samuel did not deem it expedient to embark in a contest, extremely doubtful in its issue, but attended with certain and enormous expence in its prosecution. Whether the proposition for calling forth Sir Samuel Romilly as a candidate operated as an incentive for exertion, on the part of Sir John's friends, or not, I cannot tell, but very soon after it was known, Sir John's committee was in active motion, and prosecuted a personal canvass of the city in his behalf. In order to induce him to forego his formerly expressed pur-

* Mr. Egerton succeeded to the baronetcy, on the death of Earl Wilton, in 1816.

pose of withdrawing, this committee (who announced themselves to consist of fifty gentlemen) drew up an address to the Baronet, requesting him to stand, assuring him, "that as far as they had ascertained, there was a very large majority of the freemen pludged to his interest, and that they thought they had gone far enough to justify the assertion, that he would again be returned for the representation of the city in parliament." An answer to this requisition being received, the following official notification of it was published in the *Chester Courant*:—"We have much pleasure in being able to inform our fellow-citizens, that the committee have received a very handsome letter from our highly respected member, Sir John Grey Egerton, expressing most feelingly his gratification at the receipt of their address, and at the steady and honourable attachment of the independent freemen of Chester to his person, and to the cause they have espoused; at the same time assuring them of his earnest solicitude for the welfare and prosperity of the citizens of Chester, and that whenever his public or private services can be of use, *he is ready to obey their call.*"

Although a dissolution was expected in January, it did not occur until the 10th of June; and the intermediate time was occupied by the respective parties in strengthening their cause. Lord Belgrave had already declared his purpose; General Grosvenor announced a similar intention; Sir J. G. Egerton's committee gave positive assurances of his coming forward; and Sir Samuel Romilly's friends declining to bring him forward, Mr. Williams, the barrister, was yoked as the colleague of the former Baronet, a coalition having been effected between the supporters of each. Thus pitted, the morning of the nomination, June 18, arrived. Alderman Larden proposed, and Sir John Cotgreave seconded General Grosvenor. Colonel Barnston nominated Sir J. G. Egerton, seconded by Alderman Seller. The mayor (H. Bowers, Esq.) proposed, and Mr. Dixon seconded Lord Belgrave. Mr. Williams was nominated by Mr. Edward Roberts, and seconded by Mr. Boulton. After an address from the three first candidates, and one from Mr. Hill on behalf of Mr. Williams, who was absent, the poll commenced with great spirit.

During the four first days, Sir J. G. Egerton headed the poll; on the fifth, he was passed by Lord Belgrave, who stood greatly in advance to the close of the contest. At the close of the sixth day, Sir John had a majority of 26 above General Grosvenor. Notwithstanding this fact, in the course of the same evening the committee of the worthy baronet discovered the hopelessness of his cause; and early on the morning of the 7th day, issued hand bills, declaratory of their withdrawal from the contest, and requesting their friends not to appear upon the hustings that morning. Some of the ardent *independents*, however, paid no regard to this announcement, but kept open the poll on the seventh and eighth day, not certainly, with any expectation of succeeding in their object, but to annoy and shew their hostility. On the final close of the poll, the numbers stood—

Lord Belgrave	813
General Grosvenor	737
Sir J. G. Egerton	607
John Williams, Esq.	522

Majority of Gen. Grosvenor over Sir John 130

The two former were duly elected ; they were chaired through the city on the following Monday, on which day that necessary appendage to a contest, a good dinner, was given to their supporters.

But the business of this election did not terminate at the hustings. A petition was prepared for the house of commons from the losing candidates, and another from several of the freemen, complaining of an undue election, both of which were presented to the house on the 22nd of Jan. 1819. The following extract from the former will be sufficient to shew the nature of the grounds upon which this procedure was founded :—"Your petitioners state, that
 " after the teste of the writ of summons to parliament, and after the teste of
 " the writ of election for the said city, and at, and during and before the said
 " election was finished, the said Lord Viscount Belgrave and Thomas Gros-
 " venor did and each of them did, by himself and themselves, and by his and
 " their friends, agents, and partizans, and by divers ways and means on his
 " and their behalf, and by and with his aid, their connivance, approbation,
 " and permission, and also by himself and themselves, and by his and their
 " friends, agents and partizans, and by divers ways and means, at his and
 " their charge, directly and indirectly, give, allow, and present to persons
 " having votes and voices in such election, money, meat, drink, provision,
 " and entertainment, and they and each of them, as well before as after the
 " teste of the writs aforesaid, by himself and themselves, and by his and
 " their friends, agents, and partizans, and by divers ways and means, directly
 " and indirectly, did make promises, agreements, and obligations, to give
 " money, meat, drink, provision, present, reward, and entertainment, to per-
 " sons having voices in the said election, and to and for the use of such
 " persons, in order to be elected," &c.

The proceedings upon the petition came before the house on the 20th of February. Counsel for the sitting members, Mr. Harrison and Mr. Abraham Moore. Agents, Mr. John Dent and Mr. G. Bramwell.—Counsel for the petitioners, Mr. Warren and Mr. Sergeant Cross. Agents, Mr. Humberston, Mr. Thomas Dicas, and Mr. Edward Moreby.

On the assembly of the house of commons, on the 19th of February, fifteen members were chosen by ballot, as the committee, when the proceedings commenced, and continued by numerous adjournments to the 5th of March. Twenty-six witnesses were examined on behalf of the petitioners, and seven on behalf of the sitting members ; when the committee, after some discussion, came to the following resolutions :—1. That Lord Viscount Belgrave is duly elected a citizen to serve in this present parliament for the city of Chester. 2. That Thomas Grosvenor, Esq. is duly elected a citizen to serve in this present parliament for the city of Chester. 3. That the petition of Sir John Grey Egerton, Bart. and John Williams, Esq. does not appear to the committee to be frivolous and vexatious.

DIVISION.

For the first resolution Ayes, 10—Noes 4.

For the second resolution Ayes, 8—Noes 6.

Notwithstanding the failure of the independents in the general election of 1818, the great expences incurred thereby, and their frequent discomfitures in every attempt to elect city officers, they still continued to manifest a spirit of perseverance, which will be designated firmness or obstinacy, accord-

ing to the views of their adherents or opponents. On the 23rd of October in this year, Mr. Alderman Bradford was chosen mayor, who appointed Mr. C. Dutton, his sheriff; when Mr. John Dodd was proposed as the popular sheriff, in opposition to Mr. Wildig, the corporation candidate. A poll was demanded, and after a sharp contest of three days, Mr. Dodd was elected; the number of votes being,

For Mr. Dodd..... 652

Mr. Wildig 571

Majority 81

The issue of this contest inspired the independents with increased confidence; and it was now believed by that party, that they would be able to carry all future elections for civic officers. Accordingly, in the year 1819, the parties again came into hostile collision. At the usual meeting for the elections, on Friday the 22nd Oct. Mr. John Williamson and Mr. J. S. Rogers were put in nomination to be returned to the court of aldermen, from whom one was to be chosen mayor. In opposition to these, Mr. John Lowe, seconded by Mr. George Bailey, proposed Mr. Alderman Seller, and Mr. Alderman Evans, in whose favour a poll was demanded, which being of course acceded to, the recorder stated it to be his determination to take the votes alternately, and not promiscuously. This was objected to, but the recorder persisting in his determination, the poll commenced. The poll continued with great briskness on Friday, Saturday, and Monday, but on Tuesday morning, when the independent interest, having exhausted their producible strength, the poll finally closed about ten o'clock, when the numbers stood—

For Mr. Williamson.....	716	For Mr. Evans.....	621
Mr. Rogers.....	708	Mr. Seller	618

Mr. Aldermen Williamson and Rogers being returned to the court of aldermen, the former was chosen and sworn as mayor; after which, Mr. Wildig was declared to be the mayor's sheriff, and Mr. Sefton nominated as the second sheriff, by a member of the corporation. Mr. Boulton, seconded by Mr. Lunt, proposed Mr. William Cross, distiller, and again the poll was in activity. At the close of this day, the numbers stood—

For Mr. Cross 306—For Mr. Sefton 306.

The poll was re-opened on Wednesday morning, with unabated zeal, and was continued till about two o'clock; when Mr. Cross stated, that as Mr. Sefton had obtained a majority, which he had no prospect of overcoming, he would detain the court no longer. Mr. Sefton was declared duly elected, and both the sheriffs were sworn in.

These stories of contention and strife upon which I have long been, and for some time must still be employed, from their invariable sameness, will afford but little instruction, except it be to shew the extreme folly of party disputes, and the injurious consequences they produce, in any place where they are introduced; much less will their recital be subjects of amusement. But the duty of a professed historian compels me to notice them as they occur. They may be useful, however, as subjects of reference. In prosecuting our course, then, our attention is called to another contest for the representation. The death of George III. happened in the month of January 1820, which

necessarily gave rise to a dissolution of parliament; and a writ of course was sent to this city for the election of two burgesses. The election, pursuant to the usual notice given by the sheriffs, commenced on Wednesday morning the 8th of March, when the hustings were much crowded. After the usual routine business, the mayor arose, and briefly proposed General Grosvenor to the citizens, to be again returned by them to parliament; Alderman Lardon seconded the nomination. Sir John Grey Egerton was then proposed by Mr. W. Seller, and seconded by Mr. John Dodd. Sir John Cotgreave nominated Lord Viscount Belgrave, seconded by Thomas Dixon, Esq. Finally, Mr. Thomas Lunt recommended E. V. Townshend, Esq. of Wincham, and Mr. George Bailey seconded the nomination. A poll was of course demanded, and for the *third* time, these hustings became the arena of conflict nearly between the same parties.

This contest was carried on with great spirit, on both sides; it lasted ten days, and at the conclusion, General Grosvenor, between whom and Sir J. G. Egerton the battle was virtually fought, had a majority of only eighteen. At the final close of the poll, the numbers stood—

For Lord Belgrave	771	For Sir J. G. Egerton	680
General Grosvenor	698	E. V. Townshend	604

Two or three circumstances connected with this election are worthy of particular observation. The first is, an occurrence on the Dee-bridge, which took place after the close of the fourth day's polling, being Saturday evening. General Grosvenor had proceeded from the hustings to the Royal Hotel, from the windows of which he and Lord Belgrave usually addressed their friends. Soon after six in the evening, the General, accompanied by Mr. Long, his counsel, left the hotel in his travelling carriage and four, on his way to Eaton, the seat of his illustrious cousin, Earl Grosvenor. The horses moved on Newgate-street and down Bridge-street, at a sharp trot, and approached the Bridge, to which there was a steep descent, at that pace. It happened, that the *independents*, as was their constant custom every evening after the closing of the poll, was parading the city, with their band of music, flags, &c. and as the General's carriage approached, they were upon the bridge, which was then a narrow and incommodious structure, on their way to Handbridge, and comprehended an immense multitude. In the narrowest part of the bridge, the carriage came in collision with the rear, and two or three individuals, being unable to get out of the way, were slightly injured. The independent party were thrown into a state of great irritation, and many of them imagined that this incident was intended to do them harm. The horses were immediately stopped by the mob, the door of the carriage burst open by one part of the mob, for the purpose of seizing the General and his companion, whilst another part were employed in cutting the traces. Some apology may be made for this violence of the mob, under their incensed feelings, and upon a supposition that their suspicions were correct. But the crisis was imminent to the two gentlemen; they were instantly seized, dragged out of the carriage, and treated by the enraged multitude with great violence. To the credit of several gentlemen of the party, among whom the late Mr. Seller was one, they were with great difficulty extricated from the violence of the people, and conducted to the Bear and Billet, and afterwards taken to the house of Alderman Newell, from whence they proceeded to Eaton, about ten o'clock in the evening. The party who were left wreaking their vengeance upon the carriage, having

disengaged the horses, dragged it to the east side of the road, and by dint of manual exertions, heaved the vehicle over the battlements of the bridge into the river, where it was almost dashed to pieces. This incident produced a strong sensation in the city, and as is always the case under circumstances of strong excitement, each party ascribed the whole blame to their opponents. By one side it was asserted, that the *independents* had purposely placed themselves on the road to Eaton for the purpose intercepting and assaulting the General; and on the other, that the candidate had so contrived his movement, as to dash among the crowd in the narrow pass described. Neither of stories have the slightest foundation in truth—the circumstance was purely accidental. In an address to the citizens published by the General, he gave his word of honour, that he had done every thing in his power to stop the post-boys, but that they were drunk, and could not manage the horses.

The other occurrence demanding notice, is, the general persuasion that existed, that the mayor, Mr. Williamson, acted partially, by absenting himself from his house and the town-hall, in order that the young men entitled to their freedom, on the independent side, might be deprived of their qualification to give their votes. For this supposed delinquency, by which it was said, Sir John Grey Egerton lost his election, a criminal information was filed against the mayor, and the cause was sent down to Shrewsbury to be there tried at the following autumn assizes. A verdict of guilty was returned against him, and in Michaelmas term, he appeared before the King's Bench, where he received judgment, which was, *that he be imprisoned for the space of six months, and pay a fine of one thousand pounds to the King.*

A petition was presented to parliament, against the return of General Grosvenor. The ground upon which this petition rested, was, that the mayor, whose business and duty it was to admit persons entitled to their freedom, had, contrary to all former practice, refused to do so at the last election, and had thereby caused General Grosvenor to be elected, instead of Sir John Grey Egerton, who would have had a majority of nineteen at the close of the poll, if persons who were admitted by the recorder to tender their votes, had been counted on the poll. The object of the petition was to place on the poll 29 of the 44 votes so tendered for Sir John Grey Egerton, who had been subsequently admitted to their freedom by the mayor; and relying upon former decisions, which were considered by the adviser of the petition as decisive for that purpose. This was resisted, on the ground, that they, the petitioners, must previously produce the title to freedom in each individual's case. The committee confirmed this doctrine without a division, and held, that a tendered vote could not be recorded, without proof in the first instance, that the person claiming the right of voting was fully entitled to his freedom at the time of the tender. This decision was of course fatal to the petitioners, as it is imposed on them the onus of proof, which they were not prepared to produce. After some conversation, therefore, between Sir J. G. Egerton, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Humberston, and Mr. Dicus, Mr. Serj. Cross got up, and stated to the committee that his clients were not prepared to meet the consequences of such a decision, and under such circumstances would not give the committee any further trouble. General Grosvenor was then declared to be duly elected.

Having briefly dismissed this *second* parliamentary petition, on the part of the *independents*, I must again take my course to the town-hall, in search of incident, where at the time of making the city elections, in October, 1820,

an unexpected occurrence awaits us. From what has been said, the reader will observe, how frequently Mr. Alderman Seller had been pressed on the body corporate, as chief magistrate, and how uniformly he had been rejected. In this year, however, a better understanding apparently prevailed between him and the corporation; for with the concurrence of the latter, and without opposition, he was introduced into the chair in the same manner as his predecessors had been. Mr. Cross also, a most respectable gentleman, who had been out-voted the preceding year, in a contest with the corporation candidate, was now taken by the hand in a similar way, and with the approbation of the body, inducted into the office of second sheriff. This indicated well for the future tranquillity of the place; but like every preceding promise of peace, the flattering prospect, like the morning cloud and early dew, soon passed away. Upon what understanding, or whether upon any, this arrangement was effected, I know not; but this is palpable, that towards the close of his year of office, Mr. Seller shewed a determination to disturb that mode of election which had been so long adopted, and by which he himself had been elevated to the mayoralty. It was so contrived, that a requisition was got up, signed by 706 freemen, and presented to his worship, requesting him to call a common-hall, to elect 24 aldermen and 40 common council-men, by the commonalty. This was done about three weeks before the expiration of his mayoralty; and he accordingly summoned the required meeting. The extremely delicate state of Mr. Seller's health prevented his personal attendance on the day fixed, and a subsequent day was appointed. At this common-hall, held on the 12th of October, his worship was present, and the work of choosing, or re-appointing every member of the corporation was proceeded in, every individual being separately proposed and accepted.* It so happened, however, that in the intermediate time between the 12th of October and the usual day of election, that Mr. Seller's declining state of health would not allow of his attendance at the Town-hall to swear in his newly-created members. Several, indeed, were sworn at his own house; but the proceeding was evidently so incomplete, that the *old* corporation took no notice of the transaction, and on the Friday next after St. Dennis-day, made their elections as usual, as though nothing of the kind had taken place. And so convinced were the anti-corporators of the informality of their procedure, that they never attempted to enforce its legality.

* The following is a list of the twenty-four aldermen, of the *second new* corporation. Those marked thus (*) were members of the *old* one.

ALDERMEN.

Sam. Yate Benyon*	Sir W. W. Wynn, bt.*	John Swarb. Rogers*	Robert Brittain
William Seller*	Sir J. Cotgreave, knt.*	William Massey*	J. Williamson,
Earl Grosvenor*	Thomas Francis*	Roger Barnston	John Walker
John Larden*	Henry Bowers*	John Dodd	William Boulton
William Newell*	Robert Williams*	Edward Roberts	Josiah Thomas
Samuel Bennett*	William Moss*	John Lowe	James Bennett.

COMMON COUNCIL-MEN.

Rich. Richardson*	George Walker*	Owen Foulkes	Edward Ducker
Saml. N. Bennett*	Earl Wilton*	Edward Hodgkinson	Joseph Hincks
Thomas Dixon*	James Dixon*	Thomas Cropper	Joseph Ridgway
Richard Buckley*	George Allender	Thomas Moulson	Samuel Witter
George Harrison*	William Cross	William Cole	George French
Thomas Bagnall*	Thomas Whittakers	William O. Roberts	Joseph Evans
John Feilden*	Robert Brittain	George Harding	Thomas Green
Francis Massey*	Edward Tittley	William Bevin	Benjamin Brassey
Lord Belgrave*	John Edwards	William Brown	William Amery
John Gardner*	John Hassall	Henry Brown	Rev. T. Maddock.

This hostile proceeding against the corporation, which was a complete failure, dissipated those peaceful anticipations created by the friendly way in which Mr. Sellar had been brought into office, and rather increased than diminished party animosity. It is true, at the following October elections, 1821, Alderman Rogers and the two Sheriffs were suffered to pass to their respective offices without opposition; but no sooner had the former been seated in the chair of dignity, that a rule was moved for in the court of king's-bench, calling upon him to shew by what authority he acted as mayor, on the ground that he, having been elected an alderman by the select body, was not eligible to be proposed for that office. The affidavits stated this fact; but the independent lawyers had forgotten, or overlooked the circumstance, that Mr. Rogers had been actually elected an alderman by the commonalty, in Mr. Sellar's new corporation. This discovery was fatal to the application; the rule was discharged with costs.

In the elections of 1822, nothing remarkable occurred, except that Mr. E. Ducker, another independent, was proposed as the popular sheriff against Mr. Jonathan Colley; but the latter declaring his intention not to enter into a contest, the former gentleman was permitted to take possession of the white wand.

In 1823, a severe contest for the office of second sheriff occurred between Mr. George Walker, proposed by the corporation, and Mr. Whittakers, nominated by the opposite party. The polling commenced on the Friday, and continued three days, when the numbers were:—

For Mr. Walker 617 | For Mr. Whittakers..... 574

At the close of the election, the friends of Mr. Walker, much against his own wishes, insisted on chairing him through the city, a most injudicious decision, considering the irritable feelings of the defeated party. The procession took the direction of Bridge-street, at the top of which, the independents, with their band, flags, &c. were stationed, and as the former approached, a strong inclination to mischief manifested itself. When opposite Commonhall-street, both parties were all mingled together, and a battle-royal ensued. The Independents, in whose cause the lower orders were generally enlisted, could always muster a stronger numerical force than their opponents, and were sure to be superior in this species of warfare. Several of the flags of the corporation party were forcibly seized, and torn to pieces, and some of their musical instruments damaged. The men who carried the successful candidate were assailed, and being compelled to quit their charge, Mr. Walker came to the ground;—but by the exertions of his personal friends, with great difficulty, made good his retreat up Commonhall-street, where he took refuge in a gentleman's house. In the mean time, the squabble continued between the belligerents, till the poor corporators, many of whom had been severely handled, were able to save their carcasses, by scampering from the field of action.

Again, in the October of 1824, Mr. Whittakers was pitted against Mr. Robert Shearing, who was proposed by the corporation, as the second sheriff; and the poll clerks were speedily in active employment. The poll commenced, and was prosecuted during that day, Saturday, and Monday, when it finally closed, and the following was the result:—

For Mr. Shearing	785
Mr. Whittakers	679

Majority	26
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It is not a little gratifying to me to say, and it will not be less so to my reader, to know, that this was the last sheriff contest known to the city. The years 1825 and 1826, passed over without any opposition to the corporation nominations ; and in every subsequent year, that is, 1827, 1828, 1829, and 1830, the independents have been permitted to elect the second sheriff without being opposed by the select body. And thus finally ends the chapter of Sheriffs.

It is necessary, however, in order to complete the long series of civic and legal conflicts, to notice a few other occurrences. In 1824, Mr. George Harrison, iron-founder, was elected mayor, but in such a way as the corporation opponents deemed to be illegal. In consequence of this persuasion, a rule was moved for, and obtained, in the court of king's-bench, calling upon him to shew cause, by what authority he exercised the office of mayor. The ground of this application was, that he had not been elected by a majority of the aldermen which the charter of Henry VII. required, there being only seven present at the time of his election. The defendant pleaded that the corporation existed by prescription, that the charter of Henry VII. was never accepted, and that he was elected according to ancient custom. This question was sent down for trial at Shrewsbury ; and after the defendant had gone through his evidence, and the counsel for the prosecution closed his speech, the jury said they were satisfied, that the corporation did not exist by prescription, and a *general* verdict was entered against the defendant. It might now be surely expected, that this cause was at an end. But, no ; there are so many avenues in law, by which the ingenuity of lawyers can enter and escape, that no certainty of victory can be calculated upon, until their clients grow sick of expences, and absolutely forbid further proceedings. In the case of which I am now speaking, it was discovered by the defendant's counsel, that another stand might be made ; and accordingly a new trial was applied for, and indeed obtained, in the court of king's bench, on the ground, that the verdict was irregular, as it ought not to have been a *general* one, but entered upon each respective issue. The cause was again brought down to Shrewsbury, and I may just remark here, that as all these questions were tried before grand juries there, the Salopian gentlemen must have had an admirable opportunity of rendering themselves peculiarly conversant with corporation law. The verdict of this second trial was precisely the same in its general bearings as the last, against the defendant, being, that the charter of Henry VII. had been accepted, that it was the governing charter of the city, and that there was not a majority of aldermen present at his election, which the charter required. In the following term, judgment of oaster was given against the defendant.

Now follows a new mode of hostility, though directed to the same object, the breaking up of the corporation. In 1827, informations in the nature of quo warrants were obtained in the court of session for the county of Chester, against John Fletcher, Esq. for exercising the office of mayor in 1825 ; John Larden, Esq. for exercising the office of mayor in 1826 ; against the Rev. G. Mytton, as alderman ; Mr. John Walker, as common-council-man, and Mr.

Gabriel Roberts, for acting as sheriff. In Easter term following, the corporation obtained similar informations against the same parties, each of whom filed a disclaimer, and judgment of ouster was given against them. At the assizes at Chester, informations were applied for and obtained against Mr. Rogers for acting as mayor in the year 1821 ; for Mr. George Harrison, for having acted as an alderman ; and against Mr. Thomas Bowers, Mr. Gabriel Roberts, and Mr. John Parry, as common council-men, being elected by the select body, and not by the commonalty. The corporation denied that the court of session had jurisdiction over the city, to entitle it to entertain these questions, and applied to the king's-bench for a prohibition, to restrain further proceedings in that court. The king's-bench directed another trial, to ascertain whether the court of session had such jurisdiction, and Shrewsbury was, as usual, appointed for the decision. The trial came on there at the summer assizes, 1829 ; when, after an investigation of fifteen hours, the jury, under the direction of the judge, returned a verdict, that the court had jurisdiction.

Soon after the latter occurrence, an incident took place, which probably might induce a disposition in the party adverse to the corporation, to put an end to the proceedings ; but of this I cannot speak with certainty. By an act of parliament, passed in the session of 1830, for amending the administration of justice in England and Wales, the court of session was finally abolished ; but the act also provided, that all causes pending therein at the time of its passing, might be transferred to the King's Bench, and there taken up at the stage to which they had arrived. The proceedings of which we have been speaking, was thus removed ; but as there appeared a mutual wish to avoid further litigation, the above defendants agreed to resign their respective offices, and pay all the costs. The proceedings also against Mr. Alderman Rogers have been stayed on payment of costs. So that at present, at least, (July, 1831) there are no litigations pending, in reference to the corporation, or any of its members.

Having now closed this long and desultory narrative concerning our corporate disputes, it will be once more necessary to advert to the representative affairs. On Friday the 2nd of June, 1826, the parliament was dissolved. On the evening of the following Sunday, the writ for a new election of members was received here, and the election fixed for the 9th. The removal by death of the late Sir John Egerton, about a year before, who was doubtless most highly respected and extensively beloved in the city, had deprived the party of their favourite candidate, and left but little chance for any other individual either to prefer equal claims, or anticipate probable success. It is well known, however, that towards the close of the preceding year, a requisition had been got up, said to be numerously signed, to General Egerton, brother of the late worthy baronet, requesting him to stand at the present election, and transmitted to him in London ; but the General's answer gave them no hopes of his acceding to their solicitation. Not willing to give up the hope of a candidate, until compelled by necessity, several gentlemen were successively named, among whom were, Col. Yates of Ince, and Mr. Cross, and Mr. D. F. Jones, barristers ; but, if any official application was made, they proved unsuccessful. Such was the state of things in Chester, in reference to the *Independents* up to Thursday afternoon, the day before the election,

when it was generally rumoured that another (that is, a *third*) letter had been received that day from General Egerton, which proved to be the fact, being a reply to a communication sent to him but two or three days before. A hand-bill was circulated, convening a public meeting for that evening on the Roodce, where a great concourse of the Independents attended, when it was finally resolved, to put in nomination on the following day, General Egerton, and that old *useful* candidate, and excellent country gentleman, E. V. Townshend, Esq. It may be proper to remark, that General Grosvenor, our old member, had previously intimated his intention of resigning the representation, and this was followed by solicitation from the Hon. Robert Grosvenor, who was then on the eve of leaving the country for a short time, in the suite of the Duke of Devonshire, then proceeding to Moscow, to represent his sovereign on the coronation of the Emperor Nicholas. Lord Belgrave had also signified his intention of again soliciting the suffrages of the freemen, and canvassed the city.

On Friday morning, the city was all bustle at an early hour. Lord Belgrave, accompanied by Mr. Simpson, (nephew to Lord Bradford) the proxy of the Hon. Robert Grosvenor, repaired to the hustings, but no other candidates appeared there. His lordship was proposed by the mayor, and Alderman Larden seconded the nomination. There was not only the absence of the independent candidates, but also of their leading friends, Colonel Barnston, Mr. Edward Roberts, and others who usually stood prominent on these occasions, nor even a counsel, made his appearance. Mr. Ducker, however, a worthy tradesman, came manfully forward, and proposed General Egerton, and Mr. Fitzgerald seconded the nomination. John Feilden, Esq. of Mollington-hall, proposed the Hon. Robert Grosvenor, seconded by Mr. Dixon, of the bank. Mr. Dodd, skinner, proposed E. V. Townshend, Esq. whose nomination was seconded by Mr. Ridgway.

A poll being demanded, the freemen were once more in action; and the contest commenced on all sides with great spirit. It is impossible for me here to enter into a minute history of this election, but the whole of the proceedings will be found in the two poll-books, printed after the election, where every reader may be accommodated according to his taste. The poll was kept open to the twelfth day, when the numbers were declared to be,

For Lord Belgrave	830
Hon. Robert Grosvenor	760
General Egerton	742
E. V. Townshend, Esq.	661

Majority of the Hon. R. Grosvenor above Gen. Egerton 18

There are some extraordinary circumstances attending this election, which demand a few observations. The non-appearance of the independent candidates, and the absence of those gentlemen who had usually taken an active part in preceding contests—without previous arrangement or concert—and the entire emptiness of their exchequer—were circumstances which induced many to think, that the present opposition would prove a *sham* demonstration, and would be extinguished in two or three days. Indeed such appeared to be the feeling of several of the party themselves. On the opening of the second day's poll, a gentleman who was a decided and active partizan, after

several voters had polled for Lord Belgrave, and the Hon. Robert Grosvenor, formally declined the contest; not a word escaped the legal gentlemen on the independent side; and the election was considered to be decided; when Mr. Dutton, tinman, bounced upon the table, and demanded the poll to be kept open. At the close of this day's poll, General Egerton was six-a-head of Mr. R. Grosvenor. The energy and determination of the lower order of freemen during the two first days' polling, had the effect of rallying the independent leaders, and on Saturday evening they held a meeting at the Albion Hotel, which was numerously attended, where a handsome subscription was entered into, to defray expences. A committee was also appointed, and the necessary preparations made for conducting the operations of Monday in an effectual manner. From this time, the independent committee met regularly, and their funds became increased considerably, so as to enable them to purchase the freedom of all those young men who were inclined to support their cause.

At the close of the eighth day, General Egerton headed the Hon. Robt. Grosvenor, by eleven; at which time upwards of fourteen hundred freemen had polled, and not more than one hundred voters remained; but from this period, the advantage turned in favour of the latter gentleman.

During some of the early days, particularly the second, serious rencontres had occurred between the two parties, as they came in collision with each other; but no injury had been done either to public or private property. But on Monday (the ninth day) a more alarming riot took place. About half past three o'clock in the afternoon, General Grosvenor, who as an alderman, had an unquestionable right to give a vote, drove his carriage towards the Exchange, and stopped in front of the shop of Mr. Parry, brush-maker, from whence he walked into the hustings. He was soon recognized by the independents, and a strong feeling of ill-will was immediately manifested by them. When the General was retiring from the hustings, a number of his friends secured to him a passage to protect him from insult, but this was so offensive to the adverse party, that they assailed the friends of the General with mud and dirt; and presently after, a shower of stones, ripped up from the pavement, at the end of Werburgh-street, was indiscriminately directed among the Grosvenor's, who were generally grouped at the south end of the Exchange. The latter closed upon the independents, and without weapons or missiles, drove them nearly to the entrance of the Abbey-square; but here they rallied, and in their turn, forced their enemies to retreat to their former station. The battle was again renewed, and stones, chiefly from the pavement, flew like hail. In this warfare, the independents had the decided advantage, and finally cleared the field of their opponents; many of the combatants having been dangerously wounded. The scene of desolation that followed would be best described by a view of the Exchange, on the east and north fronts of which scarcely a window frame or a pane of glass remained undemolished. Several individuals received great personal injury; and amongst the rest, Mr. Finchett-Maddock, our worthy town clerk, was struck on the forehead by a stone passing through the window of the Exchange, which produced a most serious wound. As the assailants had now no enemy to contend with, they were at length tired with the work of mischief. In the evening, the sheriffs published the following address:—

“PUBLIC NOTICE.—In consequence of the riotous proceedings of this morning, whereby much damage was done to public property, and many

persons were severely wounded, and in imminent danger of losing their lives, and the king's writ for the election of members to serve in parliament for this city, prevented from being duly executed, the sheriffs have consulted with the mayor and magistrates, and feeling it to be their duty to preserve the peace of the city, it is their determination to call in the assistance of the military for that purpose, in case any attempt should be made to renew the disgraceful proceedings of this morning. The sheriffs hope, that the intimation of this determination will have the effect of making it unnecessary for them to resort to so painful a proceeding, and they call upon all the inhabitants who have the preservation of the tranquillity of the city at heart, to give their united assistance for this important purpose." (Signed by the two Sheriffs, returning officers.)

Notwithstanding this broad intimation of having recourse to the military power, the spirit of disorder still continued, and manifested itself with still more open violence on the Wednesday following, the eleventh day of the election. Up to this time, the most sanguine hopes had been entertained by the independents, that their cause would ultimately triumph, but the proceedings at the hustings on that day had given the death-blow to their expectations, Mr. R. Grosvenor having polled *twenty-one*, and Gen. Egerton but *seven*; which gave him a majority of *eighteen*. The prospect presented by defeat rendered the *independents* infuriate, and an incident occurred, which set in motion their passions. About five o'clock in the evening, just before the breaking up of the court, a dead rat, some rotten eggs, and other offensive missiles, were thrown at the sheriffs, and others in attendance at the hustings. A skirmish then ensued, and the *independents* proceeded, as far as they could, to pull down the hustings, flinging the planking, &c. upon the heads of those who had it not in their power to escape this scene of violence. It was with the greatest difficulty that Lord Belgrave effected his escape at the back of the hustings. Mr. Simpson, the proxy of Mr. R. Grosvenor was not so fortunate; he fell into the enemy's hands, who, however, did not in any way ill-use him, but conducted him in safety to his own party. The riot now became very general. Mr. Fletcher, the mayor, having previously read the riot act through the windows of the Exchange, without any suitable effect, deemed it imperative upon him to call in the military; and the impression upon my mind is, that if this step had not been taken at the very moment it was, the most fatal and disastrous results would have followed. Fortunately, a company of the 49th regiment of foot, (with the mayor, attended by aldermen Massey and Harrison in advance) arrived at the scene of confusion about six o'clock, when his worship again caused the riot act to be read, and order was promptly restored, but not before the windows of the Coach and Horses had been demolished. Although the hustings were opened the next morning, no polling took place, and the books were closed by agreement, the numbers being as before stated.

Thus terminated the contest of 1826; which, under the circumstances in which it was entered upon, and prosecuted, reflect credit on the spirit of those who were opposed to the house of Eaton. I cannot, indeed, admit, that their ultimate success would have given them more able, or more independent members of parliament—but still, I am willing to recognize with admiration the principle, that resistance is praiseworthy, where either a real or supposed invasion of our rights is attempted. With this admission, however, it may be

fairly questioned, whether a successful issue to the *independents*, would have been an equivalent to the city of Chester, for the numerous evils and inconveniences entailed on the inhabitants, by an unceasing state of political warfare. Gold may be bought at too high a price, and much as political liberty ought to be esteemed, it is comparatively but a valueless commodity, when purchased by the surrender of peace of mind, mental serenity, and the plunging into the vortex of turmoil and commotion.

If any individuals be disposed to censure the house of Eaton, as one of the parties to that demoralization and disorder, which has long afflicted us, it should be allowed great credit for being the first to put an end to them. And here it affords me much pleasure to say, that the work of conciliation was commenced by that house, in a way that was highly honourable to the illustrious family. The account of that important incident was published soon after it occurred, and as I do not see that I can improve upon it, I shall adopt it in substance :—

“ The disunion which has long subsisted among the citizens of Chester, arising from local politics, has long been a subject of regret, by all who regard the interests of the city, and take pleasure in its prosperity. We have sincere gratification in stating, that one of the supposed principal obstacles to a renewal of good neighbourhood, and mutual confidence has happily been removed, by a voluntary and honourable declaration of one of the parties, to recede from pressing claims to which it might think itself entitled, but the urging of which has given rise to much contention and bad feeling. It would be bad taste to enter into any discussion upon the merits of either party, at the moment a peace-offering has been presented ; but we may be allowed to say, that whichever side had adopted this spontaneous act of relinquishment, would have been entitled to the praise of high-minded magnanimity. That meed of praise, then, will not be withheld from the house of Eaton :—A distinguished member of that family has publicly and officially declared, *that either himself or his brother will retire from the representation of the city at the dissolution of the present parliament ; that in future, only one branch of the family will be offered to the choice of the citizens ; and that no other individual presenting himself as a candidate, will receive either support or opposition from the house of Eaton.* We are quite aware, that many sincere friends of our present members think this sacrifice unnecessary, and uncalled for ; but however opinions may vary on this point, there can be but one sentiment on the motives which have dictated this frank and explicit declaration. But we hasten to state the circumstances under which this important occurrence has taken place.

“ On Wednesday the 28th of January, 1829, a meeting of the members of the corporation was convened at the Exchange, specially for the purpose of affording Lord Belgrave, who was present, an opportunity of making the above communication. The sentiments ascribed to his Lordship were expressed in terms the most distinct and unequivocal—even more so, we believe, than we have noted them. Lord Belgrave’s address to the members of the corporation is represented as breathing a spirit of attachment and good-will towards the city of Chester, and of his ardent wishes for its peace and prosperity. In the commencement he observed, that the communication he had to make might be a matter of surprise to the friends with whom he was surrounded, and to others who were not present ; but, after the

most mature deliberation, the determination he had formed was, that one of his family, either himself or his brother, should retire from the representation of the city. This resolution had been adopted, not in haste, or upon slight consideration; it had engaged much of his own thoughts and those of the different branches of his family, and upon a dispassionate view of the subject, in all its aspects, the conclusion at which they had arrived, was such as he had stated. His Lordship then proceeded to make the declaration above given, and added, that whoever should offer himself as a candidate, the tenantry of the house of Eaton in Chester, should under no circumstances be influenced either in supporting or opposing him. He was well aware, there were numbers in the city who were friendly to the return of one member of his family, who yet objected to two. It was true, there was a majority of freemen, who had supported the house of Eaton to this extent, but it could not be concealed that this majority was small; and that much inconvenience and difficulty were experienced from this circumstance; and in proof instanced the occurrences at the last election. His Lordship said, that the declaration he had made, was given in the spirit of honourable sincerity; that it would be scrupulously acted upon on all future occasions; and his wish was, that the utmost publicity should be given to it. It might be enquired, why the present time had been chosen for making this announcement? To this he replied, it was thought the most suitable moment, as the city was under no political excitement; at present there was an absence of all political asperities; and he thought such a season was best, while men's minds were calm and tranquil, and were most capable of appreciating public conduct. It was his intention to make a more public declaration on the subject, when the proper period might arrive for doing so; but that the intimation was given thus early, in order that the citizens might adopt that course of proceeding most agreeable to their views. Having adverted in very feeling terms to the long and intimate connection which had subsisted between the House of Eaton and the city of Chester, his lordship concluded by expressing a hope, that that connection would long be perpetuated, to the mutual advantage of both.

“ May we now be allowed to hope, that the noble, the generous sacrifice which this occurrence presents, will propitiate all hostile and unkind feelings, and be the means of uniting all hands and hearts in the promotion of peace and harmony. The interests of our venerable city, long torn by factions, require an unity of action for the preservation of its remnant of trade and commerce. While we have been engaged in internal struggles, our neighbours have taken advantage of our dissensions. But let the time past suffice. Let us learn wisdom from our sufferings. The olive branch has descended, and we trust the halcyon days of old Cestria will return with increasing happiness.”

This announcement, as explicit as it was sincere, gave general satisfaction to the independent party, the extent of whose wishes, as repeatedly, and in a variety of ways expressed, was restricted to the return of one member; though a few were found, who affected to believe, that Lord Belgrave's manly declaration was intended only as a decoy, to induce a feeling of security, that would afterwards be taken advantage of. Such a suspicion, however, could only be indulged by low narrow-minded men, incapable of estimating a honourable motive, or distinguishing between the paltry trickery of electioneering-mongers, and the public declaration of a nobleman of unblemished

character. A short time brought the sincerity of the house of Eaton to the test. George IV. breathed his last on the 27th of June, 1830 ; and a general election, in consequence of the demise of the crown, of course followed. At a very early period after the dissolution, Lord Belgrave signified his surrender of the representation of the city ; and soon after, announced himself as a candidate for the county, for which, in conjunction with Wilbraham Egerton, Esq. he was returned. The Hon. Robert Grosvenor offered himself again to the city, and being the only candidate in the interest of the house of Eaton, the independents had now an opportunity of bringing forward the second member—an object for which they had so ardently and perseveringly contended. Several of that party had fixed their eyes upon General Egerton, brother of the late Sir John, and who had so nearly succeeded in the contest of 1826 ; while others directed their wishes to Sir Philip de Malpas Grey Egerton, nephew of the worthy baronet, who had lately succeeded to the honours and estates of Oulton. The latter was finally adopted as the independent candidate ; and on the day of election, fixed for the 30th of July, the Hon. Robert and Sir Philip were elected by the citizens with great cordiality, and without the slightest appearance of opposition. This event was hailed by all parties as the consummation of concord and good will, and a season of mutual kindness was anticipated, apparently on the best foundation. Since the period of which I am now speaking, however, occurrences have arisen, which shew the mutability of all expectations founded on the popular sentiment.

In the month of December following, his Majesty was pleased to honour the Hon. Robert Grosvenor with the appointment of comptroller of the royal household. This rendered his re-election necessary ; and the day fixed for what, under the circumstances of the case, was considered little more than a formal ceremony, was the 11th of December. The affair was expected to pass over without the slightest interruption. But notwithstanding the apparent unanimity that prevailed at the election only five short months before, and the oft-repeated assurance that a relinquishment of one candidate by the house of Eaton would be perfectly satisfactory to the independents, a few factious individuals, by public advertisement, called a pot-house meeting of their worthy compeers, where they resolved to put in nomination *another* gentleman, in opposition to Mr. Grosvenor. On the morning fixed for the election they did so ; Mr. Cunliffe Offley was *meant* as their candidate ; but to shew how little these purity-of-election gentry knew of the character of the gentleman of their choice, that the mover and seconder actually nominated him by a *wrong name*, describing him as *Mr. Cunliffe*. They managed, however, to carry on the farce of an election for three days, polling somewhere between two and three hundred votes—principally, but certainly not altogether, of the lowest order of freemen. It is but justice to add, that the leading gentlemen of the party, neither took part in, nor sanctioned this ungracious proceeding ; and that it was prosecuted not only without the consent, but without the knowledge of Mr. Offley.—It may be just worthy of a remark, that Mr. Grosvenor was *again* elected on the 15th of March, 1831, having vacated his seat, by inadvertently omitting to take the required oaths, from the other pains and penalties of which he was relieved by a bill of indemnity.

But if the capriciousness of the public sentiment be discernible in the foregoing transaction, it is much more manifest in what follows. It is a well

known fact, that early in the session of parliament of 1831, the King's Ministers, with the Duke of Wellington at their head, went out of office, in consequence of being out-voted, on a question respecting the civil list; and that they were succeeded by a thorough Whig administration, Earl Grey occupying the office of First Lord of the Treasury. They were scarcely warm in their seats, when they introduced a bill into the House of Commons, for altering, or rather re-modelling the representative system, cutting off the franchise from a vast number of what are termed rotten boroughs, and extending it in counties and to large towns. This measure of reform was hailed from one end of the kingdom to the other as the harbinger of national redemption; and there was hardly a county, city, or town in the empire, that did not send petitions to the legislature, and addresses to the King for the passing of the bill. The county and the city of Chester, each called their inhabitants together in public meetings, in which petitions and addresses were agreed upon, in support of the measure. In the house of commons, so equally were the parties divided, that the second reading of the bill was carried by a majority of *only one!* and in a subsequent stage, a clause was rejected, which induced his Majesty to appeal to the people, by a dissolution of the parliament. Sir Philip Grey Egerton, had unfortunately taken a view of the measure directly opposite to that of the country in general, and especially of his constituents; but certainly in no respect derogatory to his character as a member of parliament, or to his integrity, as a gentleman. He gave his decided opposition to the bill. Sir Philip must have known, that this conduct would be detrimental to his parliamentary connexion with Chester; but this only proves, that he chose rather to sacrifice his political interests, than abandon his political integrity; and so far, his conscientiousness is rather to be admired than censured. Much has of late been said of the duties of representatives; some arguing, that they ought implicitly to adhere to the wishes of their constituents, in their legislative capacity, and others, that they should be left at liberty to adopt their own judgment. This is not a fit place to enter upon a discussion of this question; I shall only therefore observe, with Addison's Sir Roger de Coverley, that "much may be said on both sides." The fact, however, is, that Sir Philip's votes on the question of reform, greatly exasperated his constituents, who, as before noticed, had unanimously favoured the measure, by a petition to the Commons, and an address to the King. So strong, indeed, ran the tide of popular opinion against him, that his friends wisely abstained from pressing him on the citizens at the approaching election, in their then state of effervescence. Sir Philip, in an address to the freemen, formally declined offering himself as a candidate—but, whoever advised that letter, but little consulted, at least in my opinion, the interests of the worthy baronet: it was petulant and bitter, and savoured more of arrogance, than was consistent with the modesty of so young a man. But, as I have remarked on a former occasion, in this political sketch, in times of strong excitement, the form or cast of language in which our thoughts are uttered, ought not to be subjected to the rigid rules of criticism. Nor should it be forgotten, as an apology, that the bitterness now manifested by some of his former most ardent friends, contrasted with the enthusiasm of the people* at his election,

* The mutability of popular applause is thus finely illustrated by the inimitable Goldsmith, in one of his essays:—"I must own, I have such an indifferent opinion of the vulgar, that I am ever led to suspect that merit which raises their shout. * * * * *

might have produced a sortness of feeling, and ill-humour, in which it is difficult to express our thoughts with deliberate calmness.

There being now a fair opening for a new candidate for the city, by the formal accession of Sir Philip, Foster Cunliffe Offley, Esq. son of Sir Foster Cunliffe, and brother-in-law of Lord Crewe, solicited the suffrages of the freemen, and canvassed the city, as the declared supporter of the reform bill. No other candidate appeared in the field against him. The election was fixed for the sixth of May,—a day which the Independents had long held sacred, as that on which the late Sir John Grey Egerton had been introduced to the city as its representative. The Right Men. Robert Grosvenor, and Mr. Offley were returned without the shadow of opposition; and what was a novel occurrence to Chester, the election passed over in good humour, and without any signs of triumph on one side, or defeat on the other.

Thus situated at present is the city of Chester, with respect to its local politics. The Hon. Robert Grosvenor is highly popular with the citizens in general; his own personal character, the spontaneous abandonment by the house of Eaton of a second member for the city, the magnanimous sacrifice made by his noble father, to a measure considered to be essential to our national interests, with the natural influence connected with the immense property belonging to the family—all unequivocally concur in justifying a conclusion, that he at least, is secure in his seat, under any circumstances. Of Mr. Offley I would only say, that he approached the city in an open manly way; that he handsomely purchased the freedom of upwards of one hundred young men; and since his appearance in the house of commons, has acted in conformity with those political principles he avowed, and under the shadow of which he was elected. More it is not my province or inclination to say; whoever has attended to the winding occurrences of the foregoing history, will perceive the uncertainty of all speculations.

As Alexander VI. was entering a little town in the neighbourhood of Rome, which had just been evacuated by the enemy, he perceived the townsmen busy in the market-place, in pulling down from a gibbet a figure which had been designed to represent himself. There were also some knocking down a neighbouring statue of one of the Orsini family, with whom he was at war, in order to put Alexander's effigy in its place. It is possible a man who knew less of the world would have condemned the adulation of these base-faced flatterers; but Alexander seemed pleased at their zeal, and turning to Borgia, his son, said, with a smile, 'You see, my son, the small difference between a gibbet and a statue.' If the great could be taught any lesson, this might serve to teach them, upon how weak a foundation their glory stands; for as popular applause is excited by what seems like merit, it so quickly condemns what has only the appearance of guilt."

Additions and Corrections.

VOL. I.

Page 7.—Line 13.—For *intended for oak*, read intended for a check and barrier to the Ordovices.

P. 8.—l. 21.—For *the cities*, read two cities.

P. 10.—l. 26.—For *feta*, read geta.—For *Leverus*, read Severus.

P. 14.—l. 1.—For *Plaudius*, read Plantius.

P. 21.—l. 15.—For *her dominions*, read their dominions.

P. 65.—l. 25.—For *Harleim*, read Harleian.

P. 69.—l. 3rd from bottom.—Dele *but*.

P. 72.—l. 18.—For *splicing*, read slicing.

P. 87.—l. 21.—For *of Carlisle*, read at Carlisle.

P. 93.—l. 10. *note*.—For *Legrave*, read Segrave.

19. *note*.—For *the prince accompanied Humphrey*, read the prince arrived at this fortress, accompanied by Humphrey.

P. 108.—l. 10. *note*.—For *possessions*, read possessioners.

P. 109.—l. 16. *note*.—For *beseek*, read beseech.

P. 114.—l. 13.—For *Maldebang*, read Malbedeng.

P. 115.—l. 31.—For *Audley*, read Dudley.

P. 132. l. 21.—It is here asserted, in an article from Webb, dated 1281, that Llewelyn, last Prince of Wales, came down from the mountain of Snowdon, to Montgomery, and was at last taken at Blinch castle, where using reproachful words against the Englishmen, Roger le Strange ran upon him, and cut off his head; and that his head was afterwards set upon the tower of London. There appears several errors in this story as given by Webb. Warrington, in his history of Wales, says, that the prince met his death in a valley near Buillt, whither he had gone to hold a conference with the lords of that district, attended only by his squire, and at a short distance, from his army; when “the grove was in an instant surrounded by the enemy’s horse. Beset on every side, and cut off from his army, Llewelyn endeavoured, as secretly as he could, to make good his retreat, and to join the troops he had stationed on the mountain, who, drawn up in battle array, were eagerly expecting the return of their prince. In making this attempt he was discovered, and closely pursued by Adam de Francton, who, perceiving him to be a Welshman, and not knowing his quality, plunged his spear into the body of the prince, being unarmed, and incapable of defence.”

P. 145.—l. 15.—*Stagnant filthiness, which was formerly suffered to remain in our narrow streets.* To this may also be attributed the finding, at the depth of about a yard below the present surface of the streets, a pavement, which there can be little doubt was buried by the accumulation of

ashes and other rubbish, which were thrown out at this period into the streets. Ashes are commonly thrown up when digging, in Linen-hall-street particularly, and several of the very old houses in this street are entered by the descent of steps.

P. 154.—L. 45.—Causeway at the Dee Mills. In the 8th volume of *Literary Anecdotes*, there is a letter from Mr. Allen to the great naturalist, Mr. Pennant, dated April, 1775, in which is the following passage. “In the 16th of Rich. II. 1392, Sir Randal Lumley obtained a licence to make a castle of his manor-house. About three hundred yards south-west from this castle are the remains of an old chapel, wherein are several stones, apparently tombs, but no inscriptions, and sunk in the earth. A tradition is handed down at Chester, that about 170 years ago, some stones were taken from this chapel to mend a breach in the fishery dam across the weir; but whilst one stone remained therein, the dam could not be kept up.”

P. 266.—note.—It is here stated, that no hackney coaches have ever been established in Chester. Since this was written, several one-horse chaises have been set up in the city, and the speculation is likely to succeed.

P. 267.—L. 16.—Power to search for poor within the city, and compel them to go into the house of industry, granted by the local act of 2nd George III. is repealed by the 56th Geo. III.

P. 304.—Between the end of this page, and the commencement of page 305, the following passage, by mistake of the compositor, was omitted:—“Knights and gentlemen. He commenced his journey towards Chester, after recovery from a violent fever, and was met on the borders of the diocese by all the principal gentry and clergy of the county, who conducted him in—”

P. 335.—*The Walls*.—In a preceding part of the work (p. 43.) will be found a quotation from the *Polychronicon*, the matter of which is also affirmed by Matthew of Westminster, that Ethelfleda “inclosed the city with new walls, and made it nigh two such as it was before; so that the castle that was sometime by the water without the walls is now in the town within the walls.” This position is controverted at the place marked at the beginning of this article; and the reader is referred to the reasons there given in contravention of the assertion of the old chroniclers. Desirous, however, of obtaining all the information I could on this disputed point, I consulted two or three individuals, conversant with our local antiquities, who made to me the following communications:—One says,

“In the *Polychronicon* you find, that the original Roman wall did not take in the castle; it has turned off somewhere there from the remains of the oldest Roman foundation pointed out to me by the late Mr. Harrison, as of true Roman, by the rope-walk on the Roodee. The castle had its own walls, or defences separate. I take it that the arch in Skinner-street, (Ship-gate) now pulled down, was of that distinct wall. When re-built by the good old Saxon lady, the castle and its walls were also comprehended; and from the irregular turn just at that gate of the wall, I think the latter was turned angular to meet and preserve that arch.”—Another gentleman offers the following speculation:—

“In some of our ancient authors, I have read an account of the city walls being repaired and extended by “the lady Ethelfleda;” before which I presume, their course diverged from the *Sally-port* (very near to where the walls are now opened to the new bridge,) and which is apparent by the sudden

descent to the south-west angle. At this post was a postern, which was no doubt then the south-west angle of the walls, from whence they run up to the castle, leaving that fortress partially without the walls; they were then extended to the front of St. Mary's (at that time not built) to Lower Bridge-street, crossed by an arch, and so on to that part of the present structure called the *Wishing-steps*, where stood a watch-tower (lately taken down) which terminated the south east angle, leaving the city a complete oblong square, and precisely the form in which the Romans built most of their towns. In support of this opinion, I beg to call your attention to the map, where you will find that the Water and Phoenix Towers are placed at right angles; and another argument is, that the distance from the Cross to the Northgate and Watergate is exactly the same as to that part of Lower Bridge-street, where I suppose the ancient Bridge-gate to have stood. There is another material point in favour of my position; let any one examine the ancient termination of the Rows in Lower Bridge-street, and they will find them extend no further than to the place I have pointed out, or a little higher up. There are one or two houses below Shipgate-street that are co-eval with the bridge, mills, and water-course, and built after the walls were altered, or we should have seen some vestiges of the Rows down to the present arch; look also at the narrowness of that part of the street just above Duke-street, and it clearly shews the original Welsh entrance into the city. With regard to the Ship-gate, upon examination, when the workmen lately took it down, I found the ancient wall run parallel with the steps leading up Mary's-hill, and clearly shews this arch to have been erected long before this part of the walls, particularly by the great difference in the style of architecture. According to tradition, this gate admitted persons who came over the ferry from the opposite side of the river, to avoid going through the city within the walls; the road then run along under the walls to Dee-lane, up by the New-gate, or along the Further Dee-lane by the Bass, into Boughton. There is still visible a Roman pavement under water along by the Groves, which was most likely the ancient road. I shall only add, that the Romans never would have three sides of the city square, and the fourth zig-zag, with flights of steps. It is absurd to imagine that the present walls from south and to south-east were any part of them of Roman origin."

P. 336.—l. 25.—*Murage duties*.—During the time that the importation of Irish linen was very great, an accumulation of murage duties took place; and upwards of two thousand pounds of this fund, being appropriated by the corporation, the body, with the interest of this sum, repair the walls, and it must be admitted, that their late repairs have been of the most substantial character.

P. 344.—note.—A correspondent observes, that the pyramid mentioned in this note is still to be seen on the south side of the cathedral, exactly over the tomb in the south aisle. It issues, as it were, from the roof of the aisle, and is built against, or into, the wall of the choir.

P. 347.—note.—*Phoenix Tower*.—It is said, that Mr. John Broster, when treasurer of the city, placed the tablet which is now on the south front of the Phoenix Tower in its present position, and took away the arms of the different companies.

P. 349.—l. 24.—*City Gael*.—In the year 1787, the celebrated philanthropist, John Howard, visited Chester, and according to his usual custom,

made a narrow inspection of the prisons. The reader will find his observations on the county gaol at page 176, vol. ii. If he was severe on the internal management of that prison, he was much more so in his remarks on our city gaol and house of correction, then situated at and near the Northgate. Speaking of these, in his work on Lazarettos, his description is, "In the city gaol, the convicts and prisoners for trial, were severely ironed by the neck, hands, waist, and feet, and chained to the floor; and at night to their beds, in the horrid dungeon. Here was the first iron glove I have seen in England, which though not yet used, shews the severity of the gaoler's disposition. Allowance, a pennyworth of bread for felons, and a pound for debtors, inferior in quality to that sold in the city. Debtors and felons are allowed to beg some hours in the day. That prisoners are not supplied with necessary food, is a disgrace to such an opulent city. No proper separation of men and women either here or in the county gaol.—*City Bridewell*. No employment; no allowance; court not secure; keeper's salary only £4. He sells beer."

P. 366.—*The Walls*. In the note at this page, it was observed, that the author had ascertained the fact, that the county magistrates were on the point of completing contracts for the purchase of those numerous piles of buildings, consisting of warehouses, workshops, &c. which lie between the walls and the river, and from the pyroligneous works opposite the Castle Ditch, to the Dee mills. Since writing the above, the contract has been entered into, most of the buildings taken down, as well as a great portion of the walls, for the purpose of extension. The walls will be diverted from their original course to the river edge, about 30 feet from the Bridge-gate, and having continued in a right line along the river for the space of 285 feet, will make an angle at that extent, and join the old walls 70 feet from the present west boundary wall of the county gaol. The walk on the new part, in all will be 600 feet; the boundary wall of the county gaol will follow the course of the city walls, which are now (July, 1831) building along the river, at low water-mark, so that they will over-hang the Dee at high water.

P. 368.—l. 17.—*The Hole in the Wall*. In taking the walls down in 1831, another arch was discovered under the old arch of the Ship-gate, and at right angles to it; it appeared as if assigned for a resting-place for a centinel, or some such purpose, having a loop-hole looking towards Shipgate-street.

P. 376.—In a note in this page, I have controverted the authority of an old document, which ascribes a different course to the channel of the Dee near Chester, to that it now occupies. To this note the reader is referred. In the mean time, however, I am quite willing to give place to the speculation of a very intelligent gentleman on the subject. He says, "The channel opposite the Groves is evidently cut through a rock, and below the bridge, there are similar appearances. The river is very deep at the Groves, and tradition says, that St. John's church was built with stone from thence; and that part is known to this day by the name of the *Quarry*." Upon this remark, I would only observe, that if the south side of the river has actually been cut through, it only shews that there may have been a *widening* of the channel.

P. 386.—*Broken-shin Row*. I have by mistake, given this name to the row leading from Pepper-alley. It seems the row formerly so called, a

part of which still remains, commenced at the entry leading to the back entrance to the theatre, wool-hall, &c. and extended southward down Northgate-street to the next opening; it was destroyed as a thoroughfare when the premises now occupied by Messrs. Beckett and Sefton, were newly fronted.

P. 423.—l. 15.—R. H. Barnston, Esq. married the youngest, and not the eldest daughter of Dr. Thackeray.

VOL. II.

P. 100.—*St. Martin's Church.*—In the month of March, 1826, this edifice was opened for a Sunday evening lecture, and the service of the national church in the Welsh language. This very useful establishment originated with the *Cambrian Society*, formed in Chester, whose zeal for the spiritual welfare of their poorer countrymen resident in the city, prompted them to the adoption of means likely to promote so desirable an object. It is calculated there are here nearly 4,000 individuals, natives of the principality, of the lower class, who, though they may understand as much English as qualifies them for their subordinate domestic situations, are incapable of deriving religious instruction from divine service when performed in English. With this little band of Cambrian patriots originated an annual subscription, which was encouraged by many respectable inhabitants of Chester, and a number of the first families in the Principality; and which ultimately became adequate to the salary of a minister, and other incidental expences attendant upon the lecture. The Rev. Evan Evans, a young man of superior talents, and active piety, received the appointment of lecturer, who fulfils the duty of his office in such a manner as to afford general satisfaction to his people. The congregation is numerous, and extremely regular in their attendance; and they have the benefit of their minister's visits, in cases of sickness or other contingencies. A committee, appointed by the resident subscribers, manage the affairs connected with the lecture, having an active secretary in Mr. Edward Parry, whose zeal and fidelity have lately been marked by a complimentary present of several articles of plate.

P. 173.—*New Bridge.*—The arch of this magnificent structure being turned, its appearance is grand and imposing. It was stated at the above page, that a passage would be effected over the bridge by the middle of the present year, (1831) and that it would be finished for all the purposes of travelling by the end of it. Some unavoidable delay, however, has occurred, occasioned by the substitution of Peckforton stone for that of Hough-green, by the direction of the surveyor, in some parts of the bridge. The workmen are proceeding with great rapidity in raising and levelling the road on both sides the river, and it seems likely that a few months will complete that portion of the undertaking. I have not been able to ascertain what the intention of the county magistrates is, in reference to any arch, where the road to the new bridge crosses the walls, but I am still of opinion that the suggestion offered in the note, page 365, vol. i. is worth consideration. At Overlegh, from whence there will be a commodious drive to Eaton-hall, Earl Grosvenor intends to erect a splendid lodge, the cost of which is estimated at £10,000. His lordship has also purchased from the corporation a slip of land on each

side the road leading from the new bridge to Overleigh, which will be planted with trees, and thus form a beautiful plantation. The present road to Wrexham, at the further end of Handbridge, will be made up, and a new one opened, near the turnpike at Hough-green.

P. 183.—In this place it is stated, that “The south side of the upper ward is occupied by officers’ barracks, and the apartments of the justices.” Since the above was written, some very material alterations and improvements have commenced on this spot, an account of which I cannot better communicate, than in the description of a gentleman connected with the works. He says, “In November last, the Board of Ordnance ordered the Lieut. Governor’s apartments, used latterly as officers’ quarters and judges’ apartments during the assizes, to be taken down, in consequence of a part of the wall immediately below having given way. This service was superintended by Mr. Browne, ordnance clerk of works, under the command of Captain Kitson, when on razing the building, the governor’s house adjoining and attached to it was found also in so ruinous and dangerous a state, as to require its being likewise taken down. The timbers were found in a total state of decay, in both buildings. In consequence of their demolition, quarters for the officers of the garrison being requisite, the board of ordnance was pleased to meet the views of Captain Kitson, the Commanding Royal Engineer, who suggested the propriety of placing an armoury, capable of containing the same number of muskets and other implements of war, on their site, and convert the present armoury into an officers’ barrack, with additional accommodations for more soldiers in the barrack now occupied by them, by improvements and alterations. From the well known scientific skill of Capt. Kitson, not a doubt remains but an admirable building will be erected, which will be in the Doric order, and that to gain a more easy access to the building, and to give the elevation a grand and noble appearance, the area of the Higher Ward is to be lowered to a level with the present esplanade. The magazine in the ditch has been pulled down, by which the stone wall of the battery now shews itself, and the repairs to the castle wall are rapidly going on, under the superintendence of Mr. Browne, aided by the contractor for the masons’ and bricklayers’ work, Mr. J. Wright. The east end of the castle ditch will be closed by the new intended boundary wall of the improvements to the county prison, but the path round our city walls, when this walk is completed, will still pass in front of the building, whereby the eye will be gratified in viewing the erection rearing its front 40 feet above the level.”

P. 188.—*Owen Jones’s Legacy.*—In giving an account of the several legacies, as registered in the Pentice court, I confined myself to merely copying the inscriptions as they appear beneath the portraits of the benefactors: of this legacy, however, more is to be said than of any other, it being the most important one, arising from circumstances of a peculiar nature. At the time of the decease of Mr. Owen Jones, in 1658, he left the profits and rents of all his lands and mortgages in Cheshire and Denbighshire, amounting in value to £45. per ann. or thereabouts, to be employed for the use of the poor of the companies, yearly for ever, directing (as will be seen in page 188 of this vol.) in what manner the whole was to be disposed of. For nearly a century it remained an ordinary legacy along with the others; but in 1756, a lead mine was discovered on the estate, the proceeds of which progressively increased, until 1777, when it amounted to the large sum of £12,606. Two thousand

pounds of this sum, was, by the consent of the companies, employed in the cutting of the Nantwich canal; but there being a disinclination on the part of the companies, to continue the payment of demands upon their shares, that sum was lost to them. The present amount of the principal is £10,260. the interest of which, at 4 per cent. with the rest of the land at £40. per annum, is the total amount distributed amongst the companies at the present day. The corporation hold the money, for which a mortgage upon certain parts of their property has been given. When the amount to be divided annually became so great, some unfairness appeared in the mode of distribution, each company, whether the number of brothers was great or small, taking annually the whole amount, and in one instance the mayor, one of the trustees, and a rich man, was known to divide largely with the company to which he belonged. This state of things, being neither according to the intention of the testator, nor consistent with propriety, in 1808, the trustees applied to the court of chancery for instruction, and by a decree of that court the legacy is now regulated. The decree, after ordering in what manner the arrears were to be distributed, directs the payment of the legacies to the trustees, and their reasonable expences of management: and empowers them to advance any sum or sums, not exceeding in the whole in any one year £20. to enable poor brothers to bear and draw with their respective companies; the balance or nett annual income to be distributed amongst the poor brothers of the several companies in the rotation pointed out by the testator's will, in such sums and proportions as the trustees shall think proper, according to their several necessities, having regard to the circumstances of each poor brother and his family; but no poor brother is to receive in any one year more than £40. The decree also provides, that when there is not in the company first in rotation any poor brother, or not a sufficient number of poor brothers to exhaust the whole of the annual income, when distributed as above specified, then that the poor brothers in the companies succeeding in rotation, shall be relieved in like manner, so as to exhaust the whole income; and when all the companies have been gone through, then to begin again with the first company, and go through them in the same manner from year to year. It also directs, that an account of the application of the income shall be kept in a book by the town-clerk for the time being, as agent for the trustees, at the town-office, where any member of any of the companies, shall, upon giving one month's notice, in one of the Chester newspapers, inspect the same; and further, that within one month after the distribution of the legacy, an advertisement shall be inserted in one or both of the Chester newspapers, specifying the amount distributed, and the number, but not the names of the objects relieved. The distribution takes place about Midsummer yearly, in conformity with the above regulations, and little or no complaint is now made in the disposition of it. The amount divided is about the average of £400. a year, which has not greatly varied for the last forty years. I find that in the year 1706, ten years after the discovery of the mine, and eleven years before the date at which the profits were estimated at £12,606. one of the companies divided £118. 5s. 2d. and the same company in 24 years afterwards, being the period, according to the old plan of sharing the legacy, divided £407. 1s. 10d.

And now that I am upon the subject of the charities, it will not be out of place to advert to a circumstance connected with their application. Between two and three years ago, a bill was filed, calling upon the corporation

to account for all the charitable bequests (with the exception of Owen Jones's), mentioned in pages 187—190 of this vol. together with several others, including the revenues of the hospitals of St. John and St. Giles, with a view, as was alleged, to increase the amount of annual distributions to the poor. Mr. Finchett-Maddock responded to the bill in a full and explanatory answer, but which was unsatisfactory to the promoters of the suit, who finding that the litigation was likely to become an expensive one, caused the question to be agitated at the Board of Guardians, with a view to get it carried on with funds supplied out of the poor's-rates. This appropriation of the rates to such a purpose, was grounded on a presumption of their ultimately being greatly lessened by the proceeding in question. In order the better to effect this, vestry meetings were called in each of the parishes, for the purpose of authorising the Guardians to advance the necessary sums from time to time to carry on the prosecution. A special court of the Guardians was held on the 4th of March, 1830, to take the subject into consideration, when, after a dispassionate and deliberate debate, the Board came to the following very proper resolution :—“ That the Guardians of the poor of the city of Chester, consider it incompatible with their duty to act upon the resolutions of the vestries, authorising them to appropriate part of the rates raised by them under the act of parliament by which they are incorporated, to ‘ uses and purposes ’ not within the meaning of the said act, and in violation of the ‘ trusts, powers, and authorities, ’ they have sworn truly to ‘ execute and perform. ’ ” This decision gave great offence to those who had excited the ley-payers in vestry ; and at the ensuing election of Guardians, which took place a few weeks afterwards, care was taken that those only who were favourable to the application of the rates for this purpose, were elected. On the 11th November following, the subject, which in fact had already been determined upon, was again brought forward, at a special Board held for the purpose, at which the former resolution was rescinded ; and it was ordered, “ that a committee of seven be appointed to ascertain what steps have been taken, and to take such further steps as they may deem necessary for compelling the due administration of such funds ; and that they report to the Board, as often as they or the Board shall deem expedient, and that such sum or sums of money as they shall require, from time to time, be paid by the treasurer of this Board for carrying on the aforesaid proceeding. ” Here the matter stands at present, the committee having yet made no call for money upon the treasurer ; and whether more will be ever heard of it, is not known, the bill not being transferred into the higher court, since the abolition of the court of exchequer at Chester, in which it was filed, and until that takes place, it is to be presumed no steps can be taken by any party. It may be hoped, however, that such a violation of law and good policy will never be persevered in, as the appropriation of any portion of the poor's-rates, for this or any such purpose. The precedent might lead to the greatest evils ; and were it once admitted and acted upon, that parish vestries could give power to the Board, not vested in them by their act of parliament, there is no contemplating how far the impropriety might extend. If the question should again be mooted by the Guardians, I recommend them to bear in mind, that Mr. Pepys, the eminent chancery barrister, whose opinion upon this subject was taken by the Board, prior to the first discussion of it, has delivered his judgment in these terms :—“ In looking through the several gifts and grants

of the charity funds, I do not find any falling within the description in page 58 of the act." (A clause in the local act, page 58, gives the Guardians power over certain gifts, donations, and benefactions.) And further, I would urge upon them never to lose sight of what Mr. Pepys says, as to the application of the rates for the purpose under consideration: his words are, "Considering the purposes for which they (the Guardians) are appointed, and the duties they have to perform, I am of opinion they would not be justified in defraying the expences of any proceedings which may be instituted for the purpose of compelling a due administration of the charity funds out of the poor's-rates, payable to them under the act."

P. 193.—*House of Industry.* Since writing the account of this establishment, inserted as above, the Guardians of the poor have adopted a measure, which promises a future reduction of the poor-rates, and embraces also another advantage, that of finding employment for able-bodied paupers. It seems to be a general opinion with all our political economists, that labour may not only be advantageously directed in reduction of the rates, but that it is beneficial to the poor themselves, inasmuch as habits of idleness are both unfriendly to personal comfort, and conducive to degradation of character. The example afforded by the Board of Guardians is therefore worthy of imitation, and it is to be hoped will be followed by other places, where it is practicable. By an order of a monthly court, July 2, 1829, the board appointed a committee of three Guardians, to confer with the corporation, for leasing about forty acres of waste land belonging to that body, on Saltney, and an agreement was completed between the parties for forty years, at thirty pounds per annum, the board immediately making an occupation road, and keeping it in repair, which otherwise the corporation must have done. Under the superintendence of a committee, appointed by the guardians, in February 1830, the roads and fences of the land were marked out; in the following month, the poor began to work, in raising the fences, levelling, &c. on the south side of the turnpike-road. In October, a portion of the land, about 14 acres, was ploughed, and sown with wheat, and the crop now (July, 1831) appears above an average one. Another piece of land, about two acres, has been prepared and dibbled with beans, which also promises well. A third piece of ground, about twenty acres, is intended to be ploughed and sown with wheat in the ensuing October, in the same manner as the other; there are also about three acres more of land not applicable to present cultivation. A good dwelling-house, barn, and suitable out-houses, have been built upon the land; a sufficient embankment has been raised on the river side, to prevent the tide from overflowing the piece of land, situate on the north side of the turnpike-road; and the whole fences have been completed and planted with quick-thorn. It is intended to cultivate this large tract of land by spade husbandry, which will afford employment for the able-bodied paupers; and it is expected the plan will benefit all the parishes. For this scheme, the public are principally indebted to the suggestions and recommendation of Mr. John Whittle.

P. 224.—In this page is given the population of the city, according to the census in 1821, by which the number of inhabitants appears to be 19,949. Below is the official return of the population, in 1831, distinguishing the increase and decrease in the respective parishes during the two periods.

PARISHES.	Males.	Females.	1831.	1821.	Increase.	Decrease.
			Total.	Total.		
St. Bridget's	310	456	766	805	—	39
Cathedral Precincts.....	169	280	449	270	179	—
St. John's	2726	3309	6035	5098	937	—
St. Martin's	213	315	528	565	—	37
St. Mary's	1527	1558	3085	3376	—	291
St. Michael's	273	370	643	712	—	69
St. Olave's	220	236	456	587	—	131
St. Oswald's	2406	2803	5209	4334	875	—
St. Peter's	364	484	848	1016	—	168
Trinity	1388	1835	3223	3036	187	—
Spittal Boughton.....	61	70	131	150	—	19
Total 1831	9657	11716	21373	19949	2178	754
Ditto 1821	8975	10974	19949		3809	
Increase	682	742	1424			

P. 246.—The Chester Weekly Journal was first published about the latter end of April, 1721, and not in 1727, as there stated.

P. 247.—A descendant of the original proprietor of *Adams's Weekly Courant* is thus noticed by Nichols, in his *Literary Anecdotes*:—"The eventful life of Orion Adams would occupy a volume of more than ordinary dimensions. He was a native of Manchester, and son of Mr. Roger Adams, the original proprietor and publisher of 'The Chester Courant,' to which property he would, by right, have succeeded, had not his instability and eccentricities prevented it. For the last fifty years, his life had been a lamentable scene of chequered events. In Birmingham (with his partner Boden) and at Manchester, Chester, Plymouth, and Dublin, he may be remembered as a master printer; and there are very few London or provincial printing offices in the kingdom, where he has not occasionally worked as a journeyman. For several years he practised a kind of itinerant or pedestrian pilgrimage, and frequently, after he had attained his 70th year, walked from London to Chester and back, with a heart as light as his pocket; for, under all adversities, his temper was cheerful, obliging, and friendly. He was intimately acquainted with many of the first characters of the stage, particularly Barry, Mossop, Ryder (with whose father, as a printer, he was in partnership in Dublin), and many others; and, at the memorable Stratford jubilee, Orion Adams was distinguished as a brilliant character from Birmingham, in his own carriage, though in a few months after, such was the versatility of his fortune, he sunk into the humble character of a distributor of play-bills to an itinerant company. He died in a very obscure lodging near Chester, in April 1797, aged 80, and in great poverty." Thus far Mr. Nichols.—The author had a perfect knowledge of a son of the above Orion, who bore the same name, and was brought up a journeyman printer. The last time he saw him was in London, in the year 1820, and if he be now living, is probably about 80 years of age. With him, I believe, will expire the last of the Adams's connected with the establishment of the *Chester Courant*.

P. 349.—*Antiquities.* About the middle of July, in the present year (1831) the fragment of an ancient stone was discovered, over the head-stone of an old Roman window, 5 feet below the area of the governor's house, in the higher ward of the castle, and on the east side of an ancient door-way. It is 14½ inches long, 12 in. in breadth, and in thickness about 5 in. The place from whence it was dug does not appear to have been its original destination, as it seems to have formed part of the wall of the building, or else to have been placed there to fill up a cavity therein. The following wood cut is the exact form of the stone, and contains also a copy of the inscription, taken from a drawing by Mr. Browne, clerk of the ordnance at the castle, who is in possession of the stone itself:—

The characters of the inscription sufficiently indicate the high antiquity of this relique, which was probably in existence before the conquest. It is thus deciphered:—

ORATES P.

P. COM.

It is not so easy to decide on its import. A gentleman whom I have consulted on the subject, offers a conjecture, that its meaning may be, *Pray for the Common Peace.* At least it is capable of such a construction; but as to its original object, or purpose, I must leave to others, who have stronger claims to antiquarian acuteness than I can pretend to.

P. 360.—In this part of my history, the reader will find a table of extensive tracts of land of late planted in Flintshire, Denbighshire, and Merionethshire; with some observations on the advantages of planting timber, particularly in the principality. Since the appearance of this part of my work, I have received a communication from an intelligent and valuable friend, glancing at this interesting subject, which I cannot refrain giving to the world:—"I seldom take a walk on the inviting walls which surround this city, without being reminded by the various and extensive scenery in view, of the long continued contention of other days, when tyranny and oppression on one side of the Dee, and the consequent suffering and revenge on the other, perpetuated for ages the horrors of warfare. Time, however, the common healer, has gradually shed his lethean dews, and taught a more rational feeling; introduced the amity of social life, and the mutual interchange of benefits and blessings. Two years ago I took a quiet turn into our neighbouring Wales, not having done so for a long time, though frequently told that there was much that was new done and doing. And truly I was both surprized and gratified as I proceeded—new and excellent roads in all directions, the planners having sensibly abandoned the Roman originals of straight lines, whatever mountains impeded them—and followed Nature's leaders, brooks and rivers, where possible. The old towns and inns were improving; and above all, *planting* is becoming a most rational favourite, and will soon clothe the cliffs by a revival of their ancient verdant foliage. Cambria will thus rival Switzerland, in which feature *only* she was inferior. But if I was surprised to see these groups, I was astonished and delighted when I saw a flourishing forest, with an elegant mansion in the centre, gardens, river, fences, and in short, every thing that makes a rural residence beautiful and ornamental. Happily, when in view of the place, I came up with a civil and intelligent person, going to his sheep-walks, and inquired its name? Gelligynnan. Here I was completely aground. The Hazle-groves of Gynnan, was the reply. How appropriate, in a district so long denuded as that of Iâl! And will you tell me who is the proprietor? Wilson Jones, Esq. high sheriff of Denbighshire, in the present year, (1831.) I thanked my kind companion, and proceeded towards Llangollen, where my landlord introduced to dine with me a respectable freeholder from Montgomeryshire, to whom, in course of conversation I mentioned Gelligynnan. He said, that he had heard much of Mr. Jones, as a valuable resident; it will be well for Wales if his example is followed: we have in our parts a teacher, but upon a lesser scale, a tenant for seven acres, which are in admirable condition, and such a favourite was he with his landlord, a bachelor, that in his will he left his acres to him. This industrious man had an only son, a good lad, who going to Liverpool with some sheep (having never heard of war) was carried off by a press-gang, and was at sea for nine years, when he returned, to the great joy of *home*. During his absence, a great proprietor made several offers. No, I keep it for my boy, was the answer. On his return, the gentleman's agent attacked him, concluding that sailors sold every thing. He looked at him seriously, and said, my dear parent deserves to be happy, and his happiness is *here*; I would not part with a rood of it for any thing you can offer; besides, my little acres have three *decks*. What can you mean by decks? The surface is my first deck, and most productive it is; the second deck is in the air; behold the branches bend with abundance; my third deck is below the other two; and in this mineral country—who can tell what it contains?"

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